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From Germination to Flowering: The First Twenty Years of the Missouri Native Plant Society

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FROM GERMINATION TO FLOWERING:

THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS OF THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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PREFACE.—Most of the information for this history was taken directly from the Missouri Native Plant Society's publications, *Missouriensis* and *Petal Pusher*, aided by the reminiscences of a few early members. Even though little original research went into this history, I believe it serves a useful function by bringing our early years into focus in one place, thus allowing us to take a brief look at our "institutional history"—the growth of the Society and some of the issues, problems, successes, and concerns that have been dealt with. Only by knowing where we have been can we map our way to the future intelligently. Many of the issues the Society is dealing with today have their origins or are the same issues dealt with twenty years ago. Thus, I hope you find this examination of the Missouri Native Plant Society's first twenty years not only interesting but also useful.

In that twenty years there have been some failures but there have also been a great many successes. From the very beginning, the major purposes of the Missouri Native Plant Society were, "To promote the preservation, conservation and study of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, the education of the public, and the publication of related material." The Society has made a start in all these areas. It has influenced legislation and/or state conservation policy. It has educated both its own members and the greater public through numerous programs, publications, and field trips. It has created and maintained a professionally recognized journal and a well-read newsletter, both of which reach beyond the confines of Missouri. Essentially, any statewide volunteer organization that survives and remains dynamic for

twenty years must be meeting some critical needs of a diverse set of people.

The approach I have taken has been essentially chronological. This makes for some repetition as certain topics continually resurface, but I think such a course presents the clearest picture of developments as they occurred.

I want to thank those who took the time and effort to read and comment upon earlier drafts of this history: Nancy Morrison, Jim Bogler, Pat Grace, Sue Hollis, Thomas R. Johnson, Lynda Richards, Tim Smith, James H. Wilson, and the late John Wylie. As those of you who have read many prefaces to historical studies know, the authors nearly always thank those who helped them in various ways, and then make some sort of disclaimer to the effect: "The mistakes in this study are mine alone." I am going to break that mold; I refuse to "take the rap alone." If there are any factual errors in this history, I apologize. I should have caught such errors; however, the other readers are also "guilty" for not catching the error(s) either. Nevertheless, I hope you enjoy this account of the first twenty years of the Missouri Native Plant Society.

SOWING THE SEEDS.—The formation of the Missouri Native Plant Society (MONPS) grew directly out of the "Design for Conservation," the program that was established after the successful state initiative petition campaign for a small conservation sales tax whose funds would be used to buy land and promote an active interest in plants, non-game animals, and natural areas in Missouri. One of the new state agencies created at that time was the Missouri Department of Conservation's Natural History Section, with John Wylie selected to head it. That section had the responsibilities for endangered species, both plant and animal, and, according to Wylie, he felt "overwhelmed" by that charge. Consequently, he set out to enlist as much help as possible for the various areas of his mandate.

In terms of plants, Wylie asked his colleague, James Henry Wilson, who had a Ph.D. in botany, to lead an effort for organizing a "philosophical society," or a "natural history society," or something of that nature in Missouri which could be a forum for people to exchange information and gain from one

another. Wylie was familiar with the long-established California Native Plant Society, and Wilson came to Missouri from Michigan where the Michigan Botanical Club had a well-established and proud history; thus both men were cognizant of the kind of organization being considered and the contributions it could make. They also knew there were many professional and amateur botanists in Missouri who would be willing contributors to such a society.

In 1978, they invited a group of these people to Jefferson City for lunch to discuss the possibility of forming some kind of native plant society. Everyone in attendance supported the idea. Subsequently, in October, there was a meeting in Jefferson City of about 50 botanists to discuss the status of rare plants in Missouri. At that meeting, Wylie and Wilson offered to assemble, in the Spring of 1979, an ad hoc steering committee to plan an organizational meeting for a native plant society. The following individuals were asked to serve on that committee: John Baumgardt, Lou Bottenberg, Melvin Conrad, Rick Daley, Edgar Denison, Erna Eisendrath, Keith R. Evans, Leo Gallaway, Norlan Henderson, Paul Nelson, Jim Shaw, James M. Sullivan, and Wallace Weber.

On March 30, 1979, eight of the members of this "Ad Hoc Steering Committee of the Native Plant Society" met in Jefferson City to discuss the future of such a group, and write a draft set of by-laws for the proposed organization. After a full day of deliberations, a draft copy of the by-laws was ready and a suggested slate of officers for the Society nominated. This committee also agreed that the next order of business would be an organizational meeting to present these by-laws to all interested parties, establish the Society formally as an organization, and conduct a general election. Paul Nelson, of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Jim H. Wilson, of the Missouri Department of Conservation, were asked to prepare the program and arrange for a centrally located site for this organizational meeting.

THE 1970s.—Nelson and Wilson selected the Coulter Science Center on the campus of Westminster College, in Fulton, for the

site of that meeting. On June 2, 1979, approximately 60 interested people from throughout the state, and a few from outside Missouri, met to launch formally the Missouri Native Plant Society. After some discussion, the proposed by-laws, with a few minor changes, were adopted, and the first Board members elected. Article I of those by-laws set the tone for the new organization as envisioned by its founding members, by presenting the essential reasons for the creation of MONPS:

> The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Missouri is to promote the preservation, conservation and study of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, the education of the public to the value of the native flora and its habitat, and the publication of related material.

The guest speaker at that organizational meeting was Robert H. Mohlenbrock, chairman of the Botany Department at Southern Illinois University—Carbondale, who spoke on "Native Plants and Their Preservation." In his address, Mohlenbrock gave his ideas on why someone should be interested in native plants and their preservation, and talked about how individuals could contribute to an organization such as MONPS, emphasizing that one did not have to be a professional to make such a contribution. He then went on to place a challenge before the new organization by, in essence, setting its agenda. Mohlenbrock addressed what he saw as the function of native plant organizations, emphasizing such things as self-education as a group by organizing statewide field trips; lobbying at the state, or even federal, level for issues related to conservation; and communications with others in the state and surrounding areas about native plants and conservation.

At that June meeting, participants also voted to give a more specific name to what had been called the "Newsletter" in previous mailings about the proposed Society. The consensus of those present was to adopt the Latinized version of the state's name as it was found in specific epithets. The most common spelling of that epithet was "Missouriensis," hence the journal *Missouriensis*, the official publication of the Missouri Native Plant Society, was born.

In an article in the first issue of that journal, published in the summer of 1979, newly elected MONPS President Jon L. Hawker presented his views on the Society and its future. He stated that the organization's members, "Have an opportunity to begin any number of extremely vital and long overdue activities involving the plants of Missouri. The scope of these activities should necessarily be broad to reflect the broad backgrounds and interests of the many people we hope to see active in the Society." He warned, however, against becoming too splintered among smaller, special interest groups, and declared, "At this stage in the evolution of the Missouri Native Plant Society ... I think it imperative to clearly establish a few main goals and to move together to accomplish them. We need to establish a sense of group consciousness and a strong Society identity during these formative years." Hawker then stated what he saw as the most critical initial functions for the Society: "At this point, I believe that our two greatest tasks will be the establishment of a system for determining the status of the plants of Missouri and the education of the citizens of Missouri as to the importance of the results of that systematic analysis." After listing several other activities that Society members might want to get involved with, Hawker concluded by pledging to help MONPS, "...grow and become a vital cooperative union of all people interested in Missouri plants from whatever point of view."

Incidentally, it was also Hawker who first referred to the Society by its acronym "MONPS" as a shortened, familiar way to refer to the organization. Although several members objected, some even claiming MONPS sounded like a disease, the sobriquet stuck.

That first issue of *Missouriensis* also saw the call by the Society's Vice President, Edgar Denison, for a project that would consume the efforts of many people for several years: an inventory of the plants of Missouri. As Denison said, "An inventory is necessary because we simply do not have the knowledge which is needed to evaluate the status of our flora." He admitted that Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* included "...just about every plant to be found growing in the state," but, Denison pointed out, Steyermark's book gave "...no information about the

quantitative presence of the plant. Was there one specimen, or were there hundreds?" Furthermore, Denison continued, "The *Flora of Missouri* took many years to compile, and it is safe to say that the data is at least 30 years old, 30 years during which many changes have occurred in the state, resulting in vast changes in the distribution of its vegetation." Thus, a plea was made for Society members, "...professional and amateur, to report to the editor of 'Missouriensis' whatever they find and believe to be other than quite common." The intent behind the collection of such data was to create, "...a plant inventory for the state, updating Steyermark's work, and immeasurably helping the people who are interested in perfecting their lists of rare and/or endangered species, so that such plants can be given adequate protection."

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Native Plant Society was held at Montauk State Park on September 1, 1979. By then, the treasurer could report that the Society had 119 dues-paying members. At that meeting, the Board members spent most of their time handling the normal kinds of "housekeeping chores" that are needed to get any fledgling organization off the ground. There were, however, three substantive issues decided. First, the Board agreed that if the duly elected members of the Board did not have the "dual role" of also being a member of the Missouri Department of Con-servation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, or the Missouri Botanical Garden, then the Board could appoint representatives from those three agencies who could then meet with the Board but would not have voting rights.

Second, was the question of where the plant materials coming in about native flora should be kept. Eventually, the Board members decided that the recipient of those materials should be the Missouri Department of Conservation, because that agency had a particular interest in the rare and endangered species of the state, so it should assume the responsibility for keeping records on all the native flora. Furthermore, the Board believed that MDC would be a more stable repository than any individual could possibly be, even if that individual was closely associated with some teaching institution or scientific Society.

Third, the Board decided that as soon as possible MONPS should set up a fund to be used in making an annual award for outstanding work on Missouri flora, whether in the field, herbarium, or library. They also agreed that this award should be called the "Steyermark Award."

Shortly after this Board meeting, Julian A. Steyermark returned to Missouri for a brief visit. While here, he was made the first "Honorary Life Member" of the Missouri Native Plant Society as a way of thanking him for the role he had played, however indirectly, in the creation of the Society.

The Society reached another milestone on November 9, 1979, when it was officially recognized by the state of Missouri as a "General Not For Profit Corporation." On that date, the Missouri Secretary of State certified the Articles of Incorporation of the Missouri Native Plant Society, as submitted by its Board of directors. Included in the articles of incorporation were the following provisions:

1. To promote and encourage the preservation and conservation of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri.
2. To advance and promote the study of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri for the purpose of aiding in the scientific education of the public.
3. To present lectures, discussions, panels and similar programs about the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, and related subjects so as to instruct the public about their importance, benefits and usefulness.
4. To publish information regarding the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, in a form available to the interested public.
5. To raise the necessary moneys to carry out the programs initiated by the Missouri Native Plant Society.
6. To have the power to acquire, lease, sell, receive by gift, etc., real and personal property to foster the purposes of the Society.

7. To encourage and support legislation for the preservation and conservation of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, and to advocate the rejection of legislation contrary to Society goals; but such activity shall not be a substantial part of the Society's activities.
8. To support charitable, educational, or scientific organizations whose purposes are in consonance with those of the Society.
9. To not engage in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for a public office; and to not dedicate a substantial part of the Society activities in attempting to influence legislation, or to the distribution of campaign literature.

Three officers, Jon L. Hawker, Edgar Denison, and Erna Eisendrath, signed these articles on behalf of the Society.

The second meeting of the Board of directors, on December 1, 1979, at Babler State Park, established an important precedent governing the meetings of the Society. The Board members resolved that future meetings of the Board would be held in different parts of the state so the members in attendance could experience Missouri's diverse habitats and flora. At the same time, the Board agreed to conduct field trips in various portions of the state as "a needed PR exercise" to bring the Society to the attention of Missouri citizens, thereby increasing the interest in, and membership of, the Society.

THE 1980s.—At the December 1979 Board meeting and the one in March 1980, the most contentious issue centered on the question of collecting plant specimens. Eventually, after long discussion, the Board was able to adopt "a composite statement" which became the Society's policy on the related issues of collecting and transplanting wild plants. With regard to collecting, the Board concluded:

> The Missouri Native Plant Society recognizes the value of responsible plant collecting to the botanical sciences. Judicious collecting from healthy populations of

> common plants is not discouraged. Student collections generally should be limited to such populations. The collection of rare plants should be undertaken with extreme care. Small populations should not be unnecessarily jeopardized, nor should duplicate collections be made unnecessarily from the same population. When the documentation of a rare plant is necessary, consideration should be given to the use of a photo or the collection of a part of the plant in lieu of the entire specimen. Arrangements should be made to insure that all specimens will ultimately become the property of a public herbarium.

Even with this statement, the debate over this issue continued for many months in a series of letters published in the next several issues of *Missouriensis*.

In terms of transplanting natives, the Board resolved:

> Decisions to propagate and/or transplant native plants should be approached carefully. In general, the transplanting of rare native plants from the wild to private gardens is discouraged, although this may be prudent under special circumstances; for instance, in the case of salvaging plants from a site soon to be destroyed. Only under these circumstances would digging of native plants be justified. The collecting of seeds for propagation is proper, if the collector uses care to gather a supply from several areas to assure that no local seed supply is seriously affected by seed collecting. It is recognized that propagation and transplanting to a wild habitat may be desirable if the status of some rare species is to be enhanced. When these activities are undertaken, care should be taken to preserve native local genotypes where possible. Suitable sites may be established as "genetic banks" for rare and endangered species, but these should not encroach on valuable communities where preservation as an intact entity is vital. Transplanting efforts should

> attempt to maintain fidelity of original species' ranges and habitat conditions as well. Complete records of all such activities should be carefully maintained. The Missouri Native Plant Society should discourage the intentional sowing of seeds or planting of specimens into habitats undisturbed. The seeding and introduction of native species could be considered for the institutional garden, greenhouse or other controlled areas.

At the Society's first annual meeting, held June 7, 1980, at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, the Board spent considerable time examining the current state of MONPS. The basic and unhappy consensus was that the Society was "floundering," in the sense of "struggling to obtain footing." As an example of this, Vice President Edgar Denison raised anew the whole issue of what the Society planned to do with all the materials collected about Missouri's flora, and where those materials would be deposited. This led to long discussions about whether MONPS should work through regional groups centered in educational institutions or interested volunteers, and whether sufficient interest in the study of Missouri's flora could be generated among people who were not rewarded by either pay or academic credit.

It was pointed out that much material had already been published in *Missouriensis*, including information about habitats and sightings. The consensus was that the Society should receive much more of this type information, such as lists of plants seen on field trips, reports of what seemed to be areas of unusual flora interests, unusual habitats, or those that were in danger of destruction. Board members recognized that all such reports could not be published, but several Board members emphasized that no one should hold back such information, because it would stimulate the professional representatives to maintain their interest in the Society's objectives, while at the same time providing the many well-informed, but not professionally associated, members of MONPS a funnel through which their contributions became significant and recognized. Following this extended discussion, the Board was delighted to accept the offer of Board member Gary Reese to become the "clearing house" through whom such materials could be checked.

At this point, Wallace R. Weber of Southwest Missouri State University introduced a project that seemed to put all these discussions into focus, and to represent a target toward which MONPS could move in its "struggle to obtain footing." Weber outlined his idea for a manual of the Missouri flora which would update Steyermark's work and be more readily usable in the field. Board members unanimously agreed that the Society should endorse and sponsor this proposal, seeing it as a potential stimulus to the collection of the types of data on Missouri's flora that the Society had been pushing, as well as then providing a means of systematically organizing the data collected.

By the fifth Board meeting (Fall 1980), the Society had matured to the point that certain organizational limitations had become apparent. Jon Hawker, the incumbent president, took action to correct the observed deficiencies as he addressed the need to organize several committees and decide upon their responsibilities. There was a lengthy discussion among Board members concerning the need for some of the committees, but ultimately the Board agreed to create five committees: Editorial, Field Trip, Membership, Nomination, and Political Action. Later at the same meeting, a sixth committee, Inventory Research, was added. Shortly after the meeting, the title of the Political Action Committee was changed to Environmental Action as being more indicative of its real focus.

The Fall of 1980 also witnessed the attempt by MONPS to adopt a formal logo. That issue of *Missouriensis* published five potential logos that had been submitted by Society members. All members were encouraged to comment upon and vote for the one they wanted the Society to adopt for various uses. The response from the membership proved to be so poor, however, that this contest later was declared null and void.

Although at times it seemed like it, the Missouri Native Plant Society was not operating in a vacuum. By Winter 1981 there were some 15 other state native plant societies in existence. Several of those societies, such as the California Native Plant Society, had contacted MONPS soliciting interest in forming an alliance of societies in the West (tentatively titled the Association for Western Plant Societies). The purpose of this association

would be to share ideas, goals, philosophy, and communications. Advocates of this association contended that communications among the societies in the Midwest were especially important because of shared floral habitats. The Board agreed to communicate with all native plant societies expressing an interest in joining and sharing information. Nothing materialized from this proposal, but it did initiate a practice that MONPS continued—an extensive exchange of newsletters with other native plant organizations.

At the March 1981 meeting in Columbia, the MONPS Board approved the suggested logo designed by a Mr. James of Kansas City and selected by John Karel and Gary Reese. The Board also authorized those two to proceed with the project of determining how this logo could be used for such things as the heading for *Missouriensis* or on stationery. In addition, they were to determine how large the logo should be and the quality and color of stationery to be used. A year later, the Board also agreed to the purchase of cloth patches and paper decals with the MONPS logo on them.

During that same March 1981 meeting, Board member Ginny Klomps (now Wallace) introduced the subject of establishing local chapters of MONPS in various regions of the state. The Board agreed to pursue this subject and accepted Jim H. Wilson's offer to write a proposal. The basic idea of local chapters had been discussed in the initial draft of the Society's by-laws, but dropped from the final version. At the next Board meeting, held at Rolla on June 12, 1981, Wilson circulated a proposed new article to the by-laws of the Missouri Native Plant Society that set the procedures for the organization of regional or district societies of the Missouri Native Plant Society. After extensive discussion, the proposal was amended slightly, then passed by the Board.

At the December 1981 Board meeting, Paul Nelson submitted a proposal for updating the inventory distribution records. During the course of the discussion, it was proposed that one resident per county conduct the survey, providing training and assistance to those interested in helping. A workshop for educating interested MONPS members was suggested as part of

a future meeting. Recognition by some type of annual award for outstanding collectors was also suggested.

The by-laws having been revised to allow for local organizations, in the Winter 1981 *Missouriensis*, the Society rather appropriately compared itself to a plant and announced that, "...with its roots well established and its main stem reaching maturity, the time for branching out had come." Consequently, the Society extended a hearty welcome to anyone or any organization that had an interest in forming a chapter or becoming an "affiliate" of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Board members believed that such local chapters or affiliates would expand the opportunities for regional floristic inventories, local field trips, educational programs, and exhibits. They were also convinced that these "new branches" would bring new growth and vitality to the parent organization.

That same issue of *Missouriensis* had an announcement about plans for updating Missouri plant records. An article by Doug Ladd, Paul Redfearn Jr., and Paul Nelson explained the rationale behind such a project and the procedures to be used in updating the records. They began by noting that, "MONPS now provides a system to continuously update and disseminate distribution data for the Missouri flora in a standardized format that will make recent data readily available, provide a convenient means for reporting such data, and stimulate further exploration by MONPS members." The documented records would be published in special supplements of *Missouriensis*. In addition, initial plans called for these sections to be printed on separate pages which could easily be detached and collated sequentially later by those wishing to do so. They also announced that in the future there might be low cost Missouri county outline maps published in *Missouriensis* for those wanting to construct updated distribution maps.

The authors declared that, "To qualify for inclusion, a potential record should be supported by a voucher collection." However, recognizing the damage that such collecting might do and the reluctance of some people to collect plants, the authors announced that "In the case of potentially endangered or rare native taxa, a documented photograph depicting the key charac-

teristics of the taxon will suffice, provided it is treated as a standard herbarium specimen with respect to labeling and final disposition." Later, the authors also forcefully pronounced, "THE COLLECTING OF DUPLICATE SPECIMENS IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED." Even more significantly, they stated that, "In instances where there could be potential harm to a population through publicizing locality data, the specimen label may give only the county location, with the notation *additional locality information available upon application to the curator.*" The article concluded by listing the six herbaria that had agreed to accept the voucher specimens, and gave a sample format form for reporting any new distribution records.

In March 1982, the Board received its first request for recognition from a group wishing to form a local chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society (for a list of the local chapters with the date of their formation, see Appendix I). Ironically, this request came from a group in southern Illinois. The Board granted this request "with pleasure" and welcomed the Southern Illinois Native Plant Society as "our very first affiliate Chapter."

Building on suggestions coming out of the December 1981 Board meeting, an article in the Spring 1982 *Missouriensis* announced that at the third annual meeting of MONPS, there would be a workshop on the ways that members of the Society could participate in "...the all-important Botanical Inventory of the state's plants, a task not fully confronted since publication of Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* in 1963." As the article pointed out, "During the three years since the founding of the Missouri Native Plant Society, many of us labored over the task of deciding where to begin on this enormous task, how to go about accomplishing it, and, most important of all, who was going to do it! At last, we think we have answers to all three questions."

As envisioned at that time, updating Missouri's botanical inventory would be done in "114 county blocks," and the general consensus was that: "It is the membership of MONPS who must be depended upon to provide the labor!" In partial preparation for this monumental undertaking, Wanda Oskins of Southern Illinois University agreed to conduct a Botanical Inventory Workshop at the upcoming MONPS annual meeting.

The workshop, held on June 5th, featured a demonstration on how to construct a plant press; information about drying plants; and instructions on the ethics of plant collecting, the procedures, and locations where one could and should collect. The workshop was well attended, which everyone involved took as an encouraging sign that more volunteers would be coming forward to help with the botanical inventory survey.

As the work on the inventory progressed, various unanticipated questions had to be dealt with. For example, when using the scientific name, should the name used in Steyermark's *Flora* or more current nomenclature be used? The editorial committee decided, in April 1983, that at least initially the names in Steyermark would be used because his distribution maps were being used. The editorial committee also had to agree upon how to present certain technical issues to make the inventory "consistent."

The Summer 1982 issue of *Missouriensis* (Vol. 4, No. 1, the first in a smaller journal size rather than the previous 8½ × 11 inch newsletter format) saw the first fruits of the massive effort sponsored by the Missouri Native Plant Society for an updated botanical inventory of the state. That issue began the publication of the county plant records gathered in the MONPS inventory project. The article introducing this section of the journal also noted, "Many enthusiastic members around the state are already busy collecting county records," but went on to state, "Help from many additional people is needed before we can produce a truly updated flora of the state." The editors of this section, Wallace Weber and Douglas Ladd, pointed out that this "Missouri Botanical Record" was "the official register for the update of Missouri state and county records since Steyermark, 1963, and Henderson, 1980." They regarded *Missouriensis* as a place to publish, "...county and state records which otherwise might remain unpublished." They warned, however, "Critical taxonomic identification and reference to a voucher specimen cannot be overemphasized." The next several issues of *Missouriensis* would all contain some pages of the updated inventory.

That same Summer 1982 issue of *Missouriensis* also stated that at the third annual meeting of the Society (June 1982), the Board had been able to announce that the federal Internal

Revenue Service finally had accepted the Missouri Native Plant Society as a "not for profit" organization with all the privileges and responsibilities that status entailed.

The Winter 1983 Board meeting was conducted the evening prior to the Society's joint meeting with the Missouri Prairie Foundation, held at the Missouri Botanical Garden in February 1983. At the meeting, MONPS secretary Karen Haller read a letter from Patrick DeLozier in which he suggested a wildflower seed exchange program. After extensive discussion regarding the "merits and pitfalls" of such a program, the Board agreed to, "...sponsor a seed exchange for the purpose of exchanging seeds for gardens." The Board appointed DeLozier as the director of the project.

Following this, the Winter 1983 issue of *Missouriensis* carried a letter from DeLozier asking if there were MONPS members interested in establishing a seed exchange program. He emphasized that this was, "...intended for gardening only, not naturalizing or restoration projects." He announced that if there were sufficient interest then he would direct such an exchange. DeLozier anticipated an approach whereby members could obtain packets of seed at a nominal fee to cover costs and supplies, with any surplus money going to the Society's treasury.

During that same Winter meeting, Field Trip Chairman Ginny [Klomps] Wallace suggested the Society sponsor regional day field trips to selected Missouri Natural Areas, to be led by persons living in the general area. She promised to have one or two such trips planned by the Board's next meeting.

At the joint meeting with the Missouri Prairie Foundation, Owen Sexton, professor of biology at Washington University and coordinator of the meeting, spoke of the goals which had guided his committee as it had planned the program: (1) to increase the participants' knowledge of prairies as natural ecosystems, (2) to introduce participants to prairies in areas other than Missouri, and (3) to demonstrate the wealth of biological research being done at the university level around the St. Louis area. The conference itself consisted of formal speeches and workshops, all of which were well-received by those attending.

The first issue of Volume 5 of *Missouriensis* (1983) began a new series entitled "What's New in Missouri?". The authors of

this series, Jay Raviell and Sue Taylor, envisioned this feature as a regular column designed for rapid dissemination of post-Steyermark Missouri state plant records. The authors saw their purpose as gathering in one convenient location the scattered reports that had been published over the last twenty years. As they explained in the introduction to their first article: "Many new species have been reported for the state since the publication of our standard reference (Steyermark, 1963). These reports have appeared in many different references over a twenty year period and are quite time consuming to locate." Thus, they saw their column as a kind of "public service" to the members of MONPS: "To help make this information available to all MONPS members, such reports will be cited in this and subsequent issues of *Missouriensis*."

In April 1983, MONPS co-sponsored with the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri a wildflower workshop at the Lake of the Ozarks Tan-Tar-A Resort, which about 450 people attended. Ginny Wallace acted as the Society's coordinator. Beyond its active sponsorship of the workshop, MONPS also provided three speakers: Paul Redfearn on the "History and Origin of the Ozark Flora," Paul Nelson on "Pre-Settlement Wildflower Habitats of Missouri," and Ginny Wallace on "Preserving and Protecting Our Native Flora." Society members involved with this workshop believed the effort had been worthwhile because of the recognition and favorable publicity MONPS had received.

There was no Board meeting in the Summer of 1983. There had been several changes in leadership of MONPS and, during the transition, planning and arrangements for the Summer meeting were somehow missed.

At the Autumn 1983 Board meeting, there was an extensive discussion over the future of *Missouriensis*—should it have a statewide calendar of events and more articles of a "general interest," or should it be a more "professional" journal? Co-editors Nancy Morin and Marie Uehling asked for more input from the Society's members as to the direction *Missouriensis* should take.

The Board also decided to send a questionnaire to all MONPS members to solicit input into the Missouri Native Plant

Society. The Board hoped that the information obtained would help make the organization more responsive to members' needs and interests. The questionnaire included questions ranging from "What is most important to you about the Missouri Native Plant Society?" and "What type of articles would you most like to see?" to "What type of field trips would you be interested in?" and "What type of areas are you especially interested in seeing or plants?". There were also some more specific queries, such as how far would someone drive for a field trip, what specific plants they were interested in seeing, and how many quarterly meetings had they attended.

Over 150 questionnaires were eventually returned, and the results of the survey were reported in *Missouriensis* (Vol. 5, No. 4). By a large majority, the respondents said the most important function of MONPS was the preservation of plants, wild areas, and plant communities. The exchange of information concerning plants was listed as the second most important. In terms of the contents of *Missouriensis*, the majority of respondents preferred either articles of general interest or scientific topics. Most people responding favored natural areas as the choice for field trip sites, with areas not normally open to the public as their second choice.

As the compilers of the survey results noted, "While the results were not surprising, the comments were fascinating." Not only were the results interesting in themselves, but, more importantly, they also gave the state Board some things to think about. As the article reporting the results concluded: "Those who completed the questionnaire have given the officers and Board members some direction about the areas of interest and concern."

Later, in response to some of the ideas presented in the questionnaire, the Society's field trip chairman, Ginny Wallace, in the first issue of *Missouriensis* for 1985, began a series she called "Show-Me Places." Her intent was for this to be a regular column in *Missouriensis* in which she would introduce one or two areas from different parts of the state, suggest the best times to visit, and mention some of the plants that might be found there.

At the January 1984 Board meeting, MONPS member John Wylie reported that the Missouri legislature was considering legislation that would, for the first time, protect native plants in Missouri. He encouraged all members of MONPS to send letters

of support for this legislation and also to testify in favor of the bill. The Board adopted a resolution favoring the proposed legislation and sent a copy of the resolution to the bill's sponsor, Representative LeRoy D. Braungardt, and to the Chairman of the House's Agri-Business Committee, which would be holding hearings on the bill. The Board concluded its resolution by stating: "The Missouri Native Plant Society feels that authority for protection of rare and endangered plants needs to be clarified by statute. We strongly urge passage of H.B. 1079 during the 82nd General Assembly." This bill subsequently was passed and signed by the governor.

Member Mary Lehmann raised another issue at that Board meeting when she suggested that MONPS encourage the use of native plants by distributing information about where the plants or seeds could be purchased. After a lengthy discussion on the merits and legalities of the question, including the topic of reintroducing native species into the landscape, the Board decided to appoint a committee (composed of Edgar Denison, Mary Lehmann, and Nancy Morin) to gather information that would be presented in a future article in *Missouriensis*. The Board decreed that this article should cover such subjects as the propagation of rare and endangered species, how to grow them, and where to obtain them.

That same month, on January 10, 1984, there was an organizational meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden for the creation of a St. Louis Chapter of MONPS. This chapter was officially founded on February 23rd with the election of local officers and the drafting of a letter to the state Board of MONPS requesting recognition as a local chapter of the Society. Official recognition was granted at the Spring 1984 state Board meeting. At that time, it was also noted that the first chartered local organization, the Southern Illinois Native Plant Society, now had expanded state-wide and had become an independent organization no longer affiliated with the Missouri Native Plant Society.

Dorothy Epstein, the St. Louis chapter president, requested that the state Board consider giving the St. Louis chapter some money to help the organization become established. After discussion, the Board members decided to give $100 as "seed money"

to the St. Louis Chapter. State president Melvin Conrad also appointed a committee to look into possible changes to the Society's by-laws to handle any similar situations in the future.

At the Spring 1984 Board meeting, the Society made its second foray into political action when Board member Wallace (Wally) Weber submitted a resolution for the Board's approval relating to a proposed amendment, Constitutional Amendment #2, to Missouri's state constitution. This amendment would levy an additional state sales tax of one-tenth of one percent, one half of which would be used for state park purposes, the other half for soil and water conservation purposes. The tax would expire five years after adoption. After extensive discussion, the Board approved the two parts to this resolution: (1) that the Missouri Native Plant Society supported the passage of this proposed constitutional amendment, and (2) the Board encouraged MONPS members and concerned individuals "to work vigorously" for its passage.

This amendment was approved by a majority of Missouri voters on August 7, 1985. John Karel, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, wrote a letter to MONPS thanking its members for their support: "Those of us in state parks will never forget the debt that Missouri owes to your efforts and the efforts of hundreds of others."

By the time of the Winter 1985 Board meeting, there was increasing concern over the stagnating, perhaps even declining, membership in the Missouri Native Plant Society. Treasurer John Karel pointed out that as of early January, only 140 of 313 members had renewed their memberships. A long discussion of the problem ensued, with several recommended actions to reverse the trend. Nancy Morin suggested that a one-page flyer on MONPS be developed and sent to garden clubs and colleges around the state. Paul Nelson countered, declaring he believed that the Society needed to strengthen itself before it sought expansion. Robert Mohlenbrock stated that his experience in several native plant societies showed a membership pattern that had traditionally gone up and down. He suggested that the best way to expand membership was for individuals to recruit other members. Other recommendations included co-sponsoring events

with other organizations, updating the membership brochure, having a Society post office box to write to for information instead of listing just the officers because those positions changed frequently, and writing an article for *Missouri Conservationist* about MONPS, or at least getting some notices of the Society's activities listed in that publication's "Almanac Section." On the positive side, it was reported that a local chapter was being formed in the Jefferson City area.

At that Winter meeting, the Board also decided it was time to follow through on earlier action creating a Julian Steyermark Award, which had never been given. The Board directed the president to appoint an ad hoc committee to develop an awards program to include award categories and requirements, determine what the awards would be, and develop names for the awards if deemed appropriate.

This committee (composed of Ginny Wallace, Paul Nelson, and Gary Reese) made its report at the June 1985 Board meeting. The committee recommended that MONPS establish four awards: (1) the Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award [to honor the recently deceased botanist, educator, and founding member], (2) a Research Award [renamed the Art Christ Memorial Research Award in 1991, to honor one of the Society's most distinguished members], (3) a Plant Stewardship Award, and (4) the Julian A. Steyermark Award. The committee believed these awards were expressive of the major goals of MONPS: education, research, and preservation. In addition, the committee proposed that Certificates of Recognition be awarded for (1) the five most significant plant discoveries of the year, (2) the three individuals who had most actively contributed voucher specimens of Missouri plants to regional herbaria, and (3) the individuals who allowed organized MONPS activities on their property.

Most of the discussion that followed centered on the award for collecting voucher specimens. The problem of collecting just for numbers was raised and, not entirely in jest, a demerit award for such collecting was proposed. The consensus of the Board was that this award might interest more people in collecting for the Plant Inventory, thus increasing the knowledge of Missouri plants. Criteria would have to be established—for example, rare

and endangered species would not be accepted unless the collector had special permission. The committee thought curators could be surveyed to determine the recipients and that the guidelines would emphasize quality, not quantity. Wally Weber suggested giving two awards under this category: one for professional and one for amateur. The problem for the curators of keeping track of all this information was brought out, as only county records were usually recorded. A form for the curator to sign when the collector deposited specimens was proposed as a possible solution.

Ginny Wallace suggested leaving the awards as proposed and making adjustments later if needed. The Board voted to accept the awards as recommended by the committee, with the first awards to be given at the Society's annual meeting in June 1986, in recognition of achievement for the preceding calendar year (for a listing of all the award recipients, see Appendix II). As things turned out, "Certificates of Recognition," unlike the awards, were never presented, and in April 1990 the Board officially voted to discontinue the certificates as of January 1, 1991.

Wally Weber, at that same June 1985 Board meeting, proposed that the Society consider giving a monetary award for a special project or research. He pointed out that education was one of the Society's objectives, but that there was no education committee. He suggested broadening the environmental action committee to include education. The Board also discussed spending money for professionally produced public service announcements about MONPS that could be shown on metro area television stations. President Conrad stated that this would be a good subject for the proposed education committee to examine. He then suggested that the incoming president should review all the standing committees and decide what to do about an education committee. New President David Castaner, in Autumn 1985, did change the name and revamp the focus and duties of the Environmental Action Committee so that it became the Environmental Action and Education Committee.

At the December 1985 Board meeting, Nancy Morin, the editor of *Missouriensis*, led a spirited discussion about the recurring difficulties with that publication. The main problem had been

the lack of materials for publication, which resulted in less frequent publishing and thus less contact with, and among, MONPS members. Some members of the organization believed *Missouriensis* was too technical, whereas some of the professionals thought it was not technical enough. Morin suggested that *Missouriensis* become more structured, with articles on particular topics assigned ahead of time.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided that the Society should publish just two issues of *Missouriensis* yearly. At the same time, to keep the membership of the Society more informed, a bi-monthly newsletter also would be published. Linda Ellis, Sue Hollis, and Joanne Watkins volunteered to edit this newsletter. An editorial committee was established to deter-mine which information should go in *Missouriensis* and which in the as-yet-to-be-named newsletter.

In setting up the two publications, the Board essentially viewed *Missouriensis* as "more technical" than the newsletter, with the latter including such things as lists of new members, a calendar of upcoming meetings and field trips, items from other native plant Society newsletters, and other topics of interest to the broad membership.

Most importantly, however, the newsletter was intended to be a vehicle for the timely announcement of Society business matters, such as elections. In this sense, the express purpose of the newsletter was communications with the membership. Because of the irregular publishing schedule of *Missouriensis*, it had not been an effective means to that end, and special mailings to notify members of timely events were costly in postage and time. As one participant recalled, "The newsletter's purpose was specifically to facilitate timely notification of Board meetings, field trips, and elections. Any other material was to be included only if it did not interfere with the primary purpose of notification. The Board was unanimous in this to the point of stating that the newsletter should be published on time even if it contained only one page of schedule."

After agreeing to the basic distinction between the two publications, the Board created an editorial committee to decide specif-ically which types of information/articles would go into the

respective publications. This committee, composed of Paul Redfearn, Nancy Morin, Sherry Morgan, Doug Ladd, and David Castaner, met in March 1986. At that meeting they established general guidelines for what information would be placed in each publication. Board and meeting minutes, letters to the editor, chapter reports, and field trip reports usually would go in the newsletter. Book reviews, graduate student reports, new plant taxa, unusual plant taxa news, complete plant lists of special areas, county records, historical and "how to" articles would continue to be published in *Missouriensis*.

At the Winter meeting in 1985, the Board members also had an extensive discussion about the Missouri plant inventory and checklist. Because Jay Raviell had moved out of state, it seemed like the logical opportunity to evaluate the project. Wallace Weber announced that he was in the process of digitizing the county maps from Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*. Once that task was completed, Weber explained, then new records could be added and a new dot atlas produced. The Board members discussed the publication of a Missouri checklist, noting the unresolved issues, such as level of taxonomy, new synonyms, and standardization of common names. President Dave Castaner suggested that the inventory committee should present a written report to the Board indicating the present status of its work. The goals and mission of the committee could then be redefined or restated if needed, and a new committee constituted to implement those goals.

In December 1985, the Board also voted to support several new projects. One, for example, was to establish a speaker's bureau made up of MONPS members willing to give talks on Missouri's plants to other organizations. The Board also agreed to a proposal submitted by Ginny Wallace that MONPS provide a total of $250 to students or Society members for expense money toward a project which would add to the general knowledge of Missouri's flora. President Castaner asked the Awards Committee to work out the specific details and guidelines for this project and report back to the Board.

The first issue of the Society's newly-created newsletter came out in January 1986. One of the items in that first issue was the announcement of a "newsletter naming contest." Twenty-

three names were submitted, with the Society's members selecting Wally Weber's suggestion of "Petal Pusher" as the title for the newsletter. The first issue of the newsletter under that name was published in the Summer of 1986 (Vol. 1, No. 4).

The official announcement of the Society's grants program was made in the second issue of the newsletter. This message presented the purpose of the grant: "To encourage and enable MONPS members to do small projects contributing to the knowledge of our flora," and gave the general ground rules. The grant was not limited to individuals so if a group wanted to apply in order to conduct an area survey or search for a particular species, they were encouraged to apply. The announcement also stated explicitly the reciprocity that was expected of the grant recipients: "A report of their activities and any results which could be published in *Missouriensis* or the newsletter."

The Board meeting in April 1986 saw another lengthy discussion on the need to redefine the objectives of the Plant Inventory Committee. Paul Nelson referred to the problem of deciding when to stop and publish a Missouri flora update. Wallace Weber agreed that it was an on-going project that could not be achieved in the next year or two, but it had to be cut off at some point in time. Nelson also raised the possibility of using MONPS funds to hire a student to assist in the project. Sue Taylor suggested exploring other avenues for financing as well, because the work would be valuable to the entire state.

Weber contended that there were many phases to this updating, such as including county records, distribution maps, and revised nomenclature. He suggested that perhaps Steyermark's work could be updated, but kept essentially as it was, and that a simplified field guide, which gave more of a concept of family characteristics, could be separately prepared. Later, in a letter about this issue, Julian Steyermark went on record as opposing any tampering with his work. He wanted any update of the *Flora of Missouri* to be a new scholarly work by an independent researcher.

On this same subject, John Wylie announced the receipt of a letter from Peter Raven of the Missouri Botanical Garden proposing that the Missouri Department of Conservation place

someone at the Garden to revise Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*. President Castaner asked that MONPS be kept apprised of the status of this proposal.

The Missouri Native Plant Society had been organized officially in June 1979. Over the next seven years its membership had grown and more and more activities had been offered. Even so, it was difficult to offer field trips to all the various sections of Missouri, just as it was difficult to schedule regular programs that were easily accessible to all members. That was where the local chapters came in. The flexibility of a local group allowed the Society to meet more of the needs of a wider variety of its members, and local chapters also had the potential of increasing public awareness of MONPS. Such an approach did seem to be meeting the needs of the Society's members, as four new local chapters were formed in 1986 (Hawthorn [Columbia], Jefferson City, Kansas City, and Kirksville) and a Springfield Chapter in January 1987.

The formation of the first three of these chapters was announced at the April 1986 Board meeting by President Castaner. He asked each chapter to appoint two members (one of whom should be the treasurer) to serve on a committee to review the role of chapters regarding the dues structure and representation on the state Board of directors. The Board also agreed to provide seed money of $100 for each of the new chapters.

At the June 1986 Board meeting at Big Lake State Park, Ginny Wallace of the Awards Committee announced the first awards to be presented by the Missouri Native Plant Society. The Julian A. Steyermark Award, for outstanding contributions to Missouri botany, was presented to Art Christ. The Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award was given to Edgar Denison. The Research Award was presented to Bill Summers and the Stewardship Award to Fred Hussman (for a complete listing of the awards given by MONPS, see Appendix II).

Only one proposal for grant money was received that first year, and $100 was awarded to Linda Ellis, MONPS member, for travel to search for rare plants in Stone and Taney counties. The second year, the committee received three grant applications: Donald R. Farrar for funds to search loess hill prairies in Missouri for the newly described *Botrychium campestre*, Linda Ellis

for floristic studies in the Paddy Creek Wilderness Area, and a proposal for a study of the genus *Sisyrinchium*. The last request was returned when the applicant moved out of state.

In July 1986, the old State Inventory Committee, recently renamed the Missouri Flora Atlas Committee, met to discuss the goals and future of that effort. The immediate goal of the committee was to produce, hopefully within two years' time, an *Atlas of the Flora of Missouri*. The format envisioned for this *Atlas* was a looseleaf publication with maps showing distribution of the Missouri flora down to variety and forma levels. Also included would be the best current scientific name, the page number in Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* on which the taxon was discussed, important synonyms, the best common name, and relevant nomenclatural notes. Wally Weber was the coordinator of the project, and was to develop, for the committee, a sample manual that could be updated annually. The original plan called for the committee, upon receiving this sample, to decide on a format and deadline for completion, then ask permission from the Society to proceed with the project, at which time funding would be explored. Developments would prove later that the time and effort envisioned to complete this project had been seriously underestimated.

In November 1986, the By-laws Review Committee met and debated several changes to the by-laws, one of the more fundamental being the proposal that each local chapter should have one voting representative on the state Board, with the methodology of selecting that representative left to the discretion of the chapter. Should the person selected already be on the state Board, then he or she would have only one vote. This change was presented at the December 1986 Board meeting and later accepted by a mail vote of the Board of directors.

At that December 1986 Board meeting, Ed Stegner of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) spoke to the Board about the history of CFM and its contributions to conservation efforts in Missouri. Formed in 1935, CFM was instrumental in both the formation of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the passage of the Design for Conservation sales tax. Stegner requested that MONPS consider joining CFM as an affiliate

organization. After a discussion about the advantages of such an affiliation, the Board voted unanimously that the Society join and that the necessary funds for one year's membership ($1/member) be appropriated from the treasury. Because MONPS had over 250 members, it was given a position on the Conservation Federation's Board of directors automatically. Tim Smith was named as the Society's representative. Sadly, financial concerns would result in the Society discontinuing its CFM membership several years later.

The second issue of the 1987 *Petal Pusher* carried an announcement of great interest to most members of MONPS. The Missouri Department of Conservation had entered an agreement with the Missouri Botanical Garden to update Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*. Under the terms of this agreement, the conservation department would hire a botanist for a term of six years, beginning July 1st. That botanist would work on the update at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The efforts of various MONPS members in updating county records would be an important contribution to that work. Later it was announced that George Yatskievych had been hired to work on this revision, which would come to be called *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*.

In 1987, the Society's Board also became involved with a controversial proposal to allow mining in the Mark Twain National Forest. In October 1987, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management gave tentative approval for this mining. After extensive discussion, the Society's Board voted to oppose the mining proposal; directed Paul Nelson, the Society's Environment and Education Committee Chairman, to write a letter to that effect to the Forest Supervisor of the Mark Twain National Forest; and encouraged individual members and local chapters of MONPS to write letters opposing the proposal also. Among the reasons considered for opposing the proposal were concern over ground water contamination; possible effect on habitats, wildlife, and plants; and the visual effect such mining might have on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Before the issue was resolved, the company withdrew its request to mine. Thus, although the immediate result was what the MONPS Board desired, the ultimate issue and threat to the Mark Twain National Forest remained open.

By 1988, it was time to reexamine the whole issue of the Society's finances and dues structure. At the December Board meeting, President Doug Ladd and Treasurer Mervin Wallace submitted a draft financial plan to place the Society on a sustainable healthy footing. They estimated the annual operating expenses at $2,800 and proposed a dues structure to meet those expenses. Board members suggested deleting the "Sponsoring" and "Sustaining" categories of membership and adding a "Lifetime" category at $200. There were also several suggestions made on financing special projects and small grants.

The next year, the Society was ready to try again at influencing legislation, two bills specifically then pending in the Missouri General Assembly. House Bill No. 869 prohibited the sale and distribution of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in Missouri. House Bill No. 924 would make it illegal to pick or dig any wild plant from public or private land without the landowner's permission. The March–April issue of *Petal Pusher* baldly told its readers "Your help is needed if these bills are to pass" and then encouraged members to write or call their state representatives and push support for these bills. To aid in this effort, the newsletter, in addition to providing a map of Missouri showing the various House and Senate districts, also printed a list of the Senators and Representatives by district. The Purple Loosestrife bill was passed, signed by the governor, and became effective August 28, 1989. As of that date, it became illegal to sell *Lythrum salicaria* in Missouri. The wild plant bill never made it out of committee.

On June 17, 1989, the Missouri Native Plant Society held a "Missouri Wildflower Day" at the Coulter Science Center of Westminster College, in Fulton, to celebrate the Society's tenth anniversary. This was the exact location which had seen the birth of the Society ten years earlier. The day started by an opening address by the Society's first president, Jon Hawker, who gave an overview of Missouri's natural communities, thus setting the stage for the seminars that followed. These seminars fell into two approaches to studying Missouri's native plants. The first group of seminars centered around growing and landscaping with native plants; the second set examined geology's role in shaping

Missouri's native plant communities. The afternoon field trips, one to a prairie planting/wildflower nursery, the other to some local glades, continued these themes. Throughout the day, there were also exhibits from such groups as the Center for Plant Conservation and The Nature Conservancy. The festivities concluded with a banquet, announcement of the 1989 annual award recipients, and a retrospective look at the Missouri Native Plant Society's first ten years by Ginny Wallace.

That summer, the Society made its first venture into merchandising by producing a MONPS tee-shirt for sale. In what proved to be the first of several such products, this particular shirt had an illustration on the front, created by Linda Ellis, of royal catchfly (*Silene regia*), a plant on Missouri's watch list.

At the September 1989 Board meeting, President Bill Summers introduced the possibility of creating a slide bank of Missouri plants for MONPS. Such slides could be used by any member or any chapter for presentations. The January–February 1990 issue of *Petal Pusher* carried an announcement seeking someone to be the "slide coordinator" for the Society, who would help store and label the Society's slide collection, coordinate slide requests, and send the slides to the requesters.

Later, at the June 1990 state Board meeting, Steve Timme volunteered to curate this slide bank. He said he had both files and the space to store them. The Board approved. The slides would be the property of MONPS but the photographer's name would stay with the slides. The September–October 1990 *Petal Pusher* had a front page announcement about this slide collection, explaining its purpose. In addition to the slides themselves, each request for slides would be accompanied with a sheet detailing information about each species, such as habitat, distribution, and flowering time. The announcement concluded with a request for "*good* slides of Missouri plants" to build up the MONPS collection. Donors were requested to provide, if possible, the following information about each slide: scientific and common names, habitat, location, date photographed, and name of photographer.

In April 1994, Timme reported that the Society's slide library now held over 13,000 slides. At that time, the Board voted to have a "Property of MONPS" stamp made and have every slide so marked. The Board members were not opposed to

having the slides copied or prints made for legitimate uses, but did want to ensure that any such copies were not used for commercial purposes. Later, Timme announced that he was putting together several slide shows that members or chapters could borrow. Topics included woodland wildflowers, weeds, landscaping, and prairies.

On the political front, at the September 1989 meeting Dan Lehocky handed out information and gave a presentation on a proposed Natural Streams Act for Missouri. He asked MONPS for an official endorsement of this program. After the presentation and a general discussion by the Board, members agreed that this issue was a big concern, but that everyone on the Board needed time to read the proposed legislation and digest its implications. Furthermore, Board members Ginny Wallace and Jody Eberly maintained that the Board needed to present this information to the broader MONPS membership so that the Board could get the opinions of other members and better rep-resent their views. Accordingly, the issue was tabled.

When this issue was brought before the Board again at the December 1989 meeting, Lehocky reviewed the purpose of the Natural Streams Act, answered questions from Board members, and again asked the Board to endorse the act. Nearly all of the Board members agreed that something needed to be done about the conditions of the streams, but were divided on whether this particular act was the way to address those concerns. A motion to support the act carried, but with a divided vote. The Board directed President Summers to write a letter supporting the act, but, "The letter should not be specific on how much or what kind of support the Native Plant Society will provide."

In 1989, several people expressed an interest in applying for the Society's grants; thus, at the December meeting, the Board decided that henceforth the local chapters should coordinate grant requests through the Society's president.

At that December Board meeting, there was also discussion on whether the standing Environment and Education Committee and its chairmanship should be eliminated because the position had been inactive for some time. The consensus from the Board was that what was needed was a person to chair the committee

who would bring up relevant issues for the Board to address. Moreover, this committee should "prod the Society" to get involved in various ways in some of the environmental issues of the day that affected the Society, to be the "conscience" of MONPS. Someone was needed who could "motivate the Society on specific environmental issues" because there were topics that the Board did not address but should. Eventually the Board members decided that everyone should make a list of the duties they believed this committee chairman should have and send that list to President Summers who would use the aggregate to draft a description of the duties of that position.

Over the past ten years the Missouri Native Plant Society had taken positions on several political issues, including some that did not deal directly with botany. Such stands, however, did create occasional problems because there were sharp disagreements among the Society's members over some of these issues, for example hunting. Indeed, because of the positions taken by the organization, a few MONPS members had refused to renew their memberships. Consequently, the Board of directors decided that the one common interest among all MONPS members was botany and that henceforth the Society would take a stand on no other issues. Accordingly, one of the purposes of the Environment and Education Committee would be to keep the membership informed of pending legislation and activities that might be of interest, and to provide information or how such legislation and activities might affect plants in Missouri, but members would use that information as they wished.

Eventually, Jack and Pat Harris were asked, and agreed, to take over this committee as co-chairs. They began their duties by attempting to get some direction from the general MONPS membership. In the September–October 1990 *Petal Pusher*, they stated, "We are in the process of establishing goals for this committee, and would like your input on ideas and recommendations on topics that you would like to see addressed by this committee."

By the end of the 1980's, it had become apparent that the Society's by-laws were no longer an adequate framework for functionality. There had been several revisions since their adoption in 1979, but all of those changes had been piecemeal to

deal with specific issues. What was needed was a complete review of the by-laws in their entirety. In 1989, a committee was appointed to do just that, headed by Sue Hollis. After examining the existing by-laws in depth, this committee brought each issue needing change before the MONPS Board of directors for "a decision of intent." After receiving direction, the committee then put those decisions into proper language and modified any other passages of the by-laws necessary to bring them into conformance with the changes. This was a long and tedious procedure, but finally, at the December 1993 Board meeting, the whole revised by-laws were ready for adoption. The meeting was one vote shy of the number needed to revise the by-laws, but an absent Board member was contacted by telephone, voted yes, and the revised by-laws adopted.

THE 1990s.—While the by-laws were being revised, the Board continued dealing with regular business. At the Spring 1990 Board meeting, it was reported that nothing had happened on native plant legislation in the current session of the Missouri General Assembly. Consequently, the Board directed President Bill Summers to write a letter to Jim H. Wilson at the Department of Conservation requesting that the MDC's newly-hired botanist spend time on native plant legislation. Summers was also to agree that if needed MONPS would take a stance and testify.

At the next Board meeting, Summers reported that he had written to Wilson requesting that native plant legislation be a priority with the Department of Conservation. Along this same line, Board member Tim Smith suggested that people write the Highway Department to encourage legislation to stop people digging along the highways. Wally Weber stated that the Society would need to have members get involved in politics if they wanted to see changes. There was some discussion about hiring a lobbyist. Weber explained that several organizations often combined to pay for a full-time lobbyist. George Yatskievych pointed out that the Conservation Federation of Missouri was already in place to do that, and that the cost to MONPS to have the CFM work on issues the Society felt was important was $1 annually per MONPS member. The Board decided to continue as

before, for the foreseeable future, and simply encourage individual efforts.

For several years, MONPS had been participating on an ad hoc basis in the Eastern Native Plant Alliance (ENPA), an umbrella group for various individuals and organizations interested in native plants, usually reimbursing some of the travel expenses for a MONPS member to attend the ENPA annual meeting. In 1990 the Board decided to formalize the Society's participation and agreed to allot $100 per year for ENPA—$25 for dues and $75 to help defray the costs of sending a MONPS representative to the ENPA annual meeting.

Taking a more active role, as the Board had directed, one of the first public acts by Jack Harris, the new Environment and Education Committee co-chairman, was to present management policy recommendations, at a public meeting in December 1990, to the Missouri Department of Conservation on the future of Forest 44, a recently acquired conservation area near St. Louis. The main theme of Harris' presentation was to encourage the Department of Conservation to adopt management policies for Forest 44 that would tend to recapture the conditions of the presettlement flora in Missouri, as well as to promote the use of flora representative of the Missouri gene pool.

The whole issue about updating the plant distributions shown in Steyermark's *Flora* continued to be a perennial topic. In 1991, Wally Weber provided a succinct history of the project. He explained that in 1981 certain procedures were adopted by MONPS for updating Steyermark's records. These included creation of an official register for state and county records, subsequently known as the "Botanical Record," the first number of which appeared in *Missouriensis* Vol. 4, No. 1 (1982). Weber pointed out that to date [1991], 58 lists of county records, contributed by 38 members of MONPS, had been added and published in the first 14 Botanical Records. These lists included over 4,100 county records and represented collecting done by over 370 persons.

According to Weber, as this new information accumulated, it became necessary to update Steyermark's pre-1963 dot distribution maps. Out of this effort was born the *Missouri Flora Atlas* project, begun in 1983 at Southwest Missouri State Univer-

sity. At that time, the decision was made to store and distribute much of this information in computer-usable form rather than only as paper maps. The advantage to using computer databases was said to be threefold: (1) they could be updated relatively easily to reflect new information, (2) they could be used easily for research purposes requiring tabulation of taxa or county information, and (3) they could be easily and quickly distributed.

After having to rekey most information, due to a computer error, Weber was able to announce in September 1991 that a preliminary draft of the *Missouri Flora Atlas* was now ready to be printed. Initial plans were to print ten copies which would be reviewed and checked before the final printing. In addition, Weber stated he had prepared a presentation on the *Atlas* and was willing to visit chapters and give talks about it.

One of the more contentious issues to come before the state Board was the one in early 1991 regarding whether or not the Society should take a position on an upcoming appointment to Missouri's Conservation Commission. After an extensive (and sometimes heated) discussion, the Board decided not to take an official position on the appointment, but to encourage the members to make their views known individually. To aid them in this effort, the Board did adopt (after another extended and intense discussion) a "proposed profile" for the appointee to match, and encouraged members of the Society to write the governor asking that he appoint someone fitting the qualifications of that profile. As finally agreed to by the Board members present, this profile included such characteristics as being a Republican or Independent (because by the Missouri Constitution the Conservation Commission must have a balance and two of the four incumbent members were Democrats); female (no female had ever been appointed to the Commission); and someone whose past activities represented an interest in, and concern for, natural history, nonconsumptive outdoor sports, biodiversity protection, conservation or restoration of natural habitats, and was not opposed to traditional licensed outdoor activities like hunting and fishing.

Several members of the Board were absent when this issue was decided, and later publicly (*Petal Pusher* Vol 6, No 3) went on record as being opposed to the action taken. Whether or not they agreed with all or part of the Board's earlier action, these persons contended that MONPS should not become involved with general issues that did not relate directly to native plants.

After a hiatus of a few years when no new chapters were formed, December 1991 witnessed the formation of a new local chapter in the Mountain View area. It was later named the Ozark Showy Chapter.

By the end of 1991, nearly everyone on the MONPS state Board believed it was time for the organization to take a serious, in-depth look at itself. The result of this decision was a special day-long meeting of the Board, held on February 29, 1992, at the Powder Valley Nature Center in St. Louis. This was an extra Board meeting, beyond the constitutionally-mandated four, called expressly for the purpose of examining the Society's objectives, priorities, and short-term and long-range goals. Twenty-one people from throughout the state were in attendance. The participants started out en masse, brainstorming all types of ideas, projects, goals, and problem areas they thought the Missouri Native Plant Society might address. A list of 36 items resulted, ranging from such topics as development of an infor-mational brochure, a wildflower atlas, display Boards for booths, greater publicity, gardeners' alerts, rare plant and habitat monit-oring, plant rescue and salvage, business liaisons, fundraising ideas, and children's educational materials, to examining the internal structure of the organization itself (for a complete list of the 36 items, see *Petal Pusher* Vol. 7, No. 3).

Once this initial list of ideas was established, the group arranged the items into eight larger, overall categories: habitat issues, membership, outreach/liaison, horticulture, education, fundraising/sales, internal structure, and research. Obviously, some items could fall into more than one category but were placed into the one deemed most appropriate. Each participant then selected two of the larger areas to work on. In two concurrent sessions, each covering half of the categories, participants spent an hour on each of the broader categories. Each work

PHOTOS OF MONPS THROUGH THE YEARS

The following series of photographs pays homage to the Missouri Native Plant Society and some of its members over the years. Space constraints do not permit identification of most of the persons in these snapshots, but those attended the events pictured will remember them well.

1. Lunch time at the MONPS organizational meeting at Westminster College, in Fulton, Callaway County, June 1979. Photo courtesy of Bill Summers.

2. Art Christ, at about the time of the first meeting of an ad hoc committee to form a Missouri Native Plant Society, 1978. Photo courtesy of Bill Summers.

3. Julian Steyermark during a visit back to Missouri, October 1979. Photo courtesy of Rick Thom, MDC.

4. Wally Weber drives the bus on a fateful field trip best remembered for a broken distributor cap and a coat hanger repair, April 1985. Photo courtesy of Pat Grace.

5. Paying homage to *Geocarpon minimum* at Halltown Glade, Lawrence County, April 1985. Photo courtesy of Pat Grace.

6. The group is trucked in by NPS personnel to the remote Jam-Up Bluff in the Ozark National Scenic Riverway, Shannon County, June 1985. Photo courtesy of Bill Summers.

7. A program on igneous shut-ins at Johnson Shut-Ins State Park, Reynolds County, June 1987. Photo courtesy of Bill Summers.

8. Transporting plants to a reintroduction site in St. Charles County during a salvage operation of a doomed population of the federally threatened *Boltonia decurrens*, October 1987. Photo courtesy of Bill Summers.

9. From tall white *Stenosiphon linifolius* (left and center) to lowly *Grindelia lanceolata* (right), the group stands (and kneels) amazed at White River Balds Natural Area in Henning Conservation Area, Taney County, September, 1989. Photo courtesy of Tim Smith.

10. The group studies a *Smilax* at White River Balds Natural Area in Henning Conservation Area, Taney County, September, 1989. Photo courtesy of Bill Summers.

11. Karen Haller presents the MONPS Stewardship Award to John Weston of St. Louis Hills Country Club for his innovative use of native plants in and around the greenways, July 1990. Photo courtesy of Karen Haller.

12. Roll call at Pickle Springs Natural Area, Ste. Genevieve County, April 1993. Photo courtesy of Steve Timme.

13. Steve Timme cools his heels while explaining streambank bryophytes to the group at Pickle Springs Natural Area, Ste. Genevieve County, April 1993. Photo courtesy of Jack Harris.

14. A ride to the trailhead at Montauk State Park, Dent County, April 1996. Photo courtesy of Larry Morrison.

15. Field trip to the Cox family's prairie, Lawrence County, June 1997. Photo courtesy of Nancy Morrison.

16. Discussing land management practices with Mrs. Jones (center), whose family owned the land that is now Prairie Fork Conservation Area, Callaway County, April 1998. Photo courtesy of Nels Holmberg.

17. Waiting for the big show of nocturnal insect fauna to begin at Helton Prairie Natural Area, Helton Conservation Area, Harrison County, June 1998. Photo courtesy of Nancy Morrison.

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group designated one person to summarize the discussion and submit a written report.

At the end of the day, all participants were exhausted, but agreed that this introspective look had been a beneficial exercise that probably should be repeated every few years. Later, all Board members were mailed a copy of the written reports and thus had the opportunity to read and think about them before continuing the discussion and/or implementation of the items as time, need, and inclination allowed at future Board meetings.

After a presentation by Tim Smith at the June 1992 Board meeting on the problems with people digging coneflowers, Board members agreed to a proposal by Smith that the Society appropriate $200 for a year's trial to help fund an Operation Plant Thief Reward program to prosecute coneflower diggers, if the program materialized. Unfortunately, there was no success in getting plant rewards formalized so no program was ever created and no funds transferred.

At that June meeting, Wally Weber sent word that the nomenclature in the *Missouri Flora Atlas* had been changed from that being used in Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* to that used in the 1990 *Catalogue of the Flora of Missouri* by members George Yatskievych and Joanna Turner. He also declared that even though the *Atlas* was not yet available, printouts and computer diskettes were available, upon request, listing plants for all Missouri counties.

In September 1992, MONPS and the Kansas Wildflower Society held a joint meeting entitled "Threshold of the Prairie Symposium." The first day of this two-day event was held at the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Springs, Missouri. There were speakers, field trips, book displays, and several social gatherings, which gave members from the two groups opportunities to get acquainted and share ideas, concerns, and their general interest in native plants. There was a joint banquet Saturday night and additional field trips on Sunday. Both groups enjoyed the meeting, with several people suggesting it be done again in a few years, meeting next time on the Kansas side of the border.

One of the items coming out of this joint meeting was the idea for MONPS to have a wildflower badge program similar to the one run by the Kansas Wildflower Society. At the December 1992 MONPS Board meeting, the St. Louis Chapter representative reported that the education committee of the St. Louis chapter was already investigating the concept and would have a sample brochure and badge design available in April for the state Board to review.

After reviewing and commenting upon earlier versions, in September 1993 the state Board approved the brochure and badge for the MONPS wildflower badge program, which had been developed by the St. Louis chapter. Based upon the familiar approach of Scout badge programs, participants could earn a distinctive badge by completing a certain number of exercises involving native plants. The badge could not be purchased; it could only be earned. Designed to encourage an appreciation and understanding of wildflowers, the program was aimed at middle school age or higher and was suitable for both individuals and groups. The Board also directed that the names of those who completed the program and qualified for the badge would be printed in *Petal Pusher*. Along with the badge, those completing the program would also receive a letter or certificate, and a brochure about membership in the Missouri Native Plant Society. Jim Bogler volunteered to chair the committee that would run the program.

Growing out of the internal organization session of the Society's "introspective look" meeting in February 1992, a proposal was put forward at the December 1992 meeting to change the membership configuration of the Missouri Native Plant Society. At that time, Board members agreed to three basic changes in the membership structure. The first proposed change was that everyone who was a member of the state Society would become automatically a member of at least one local chapter. Prior to this change, a person could elect to be a member at the state level only. Geographic area boundaries that were related to each chapter would be drawn by the state Board in consultation with the chapters. All areas of the state would be assigned to some local chapter. With the change, unless a member elected to designate a different chapter for which that person preferred

affiliation, he or she automatically would be a member of the local chapter that was geographically closest to the home address. A different preference could be indicated on the membership application form, or by letter notifying the Society.

The second change grew out of the first: The membership category of "State member only" (i.e., belonging to no local chapter) would be abolished. Every individual would now be a member of some local chapter, either as assigned by the Society's geographic boundaries or as selected by the member.

The third suggested change was to make the membership dues for the Society uniform for all members. Prior to the proposed change, the state dues were $9 and each local chapter could establish its own dues. As proposed, the state dues would remain at $9 with each chapter receiving any amount over that, probably $5 or $6 per member, depending upon what uniform amount finally was agreed upon.

The intent behind these changes was to provide the opportunity for improved member participation and for more uniform and comprehensive services to all the Society's members. With these changes, all members would receive at least one chapter newsletter, keeping them apprised of activities in the local area. In addition, any member could elect to receive the chapter newsletter from more than one chapter by negotiating a price with the other chapter(s) for being placed on the mailing list.

The majority of the Board believed that these recommendations merited adoption; however, it was also agreed that the local chapters should have the opportunity to consider and comment upon these proposals before any final action was taken.

The local chapters having had a chance to discuss these issues, the proposed changes in membership structure were brought back before the state Board in April 1993. The first two proposed changes were accepted without much debate, but the proposal to standardize the dues structure engendered considerable comment. There was a vigorous discussion about the acceptability of standardized dues for all chapters and the various advantages and disadvantages of such a system.

For purposes of discussion, Society Treasurer Jack Harris had prepared a "hypothetical geographical area assignment map"

to illustrate how the proposed system would work. Each local chapter was assigned the county in which it was headquartered and all of those counties surrounding it to the extent possible, depending on how close the neighboring chapter was located. On this map, the hypothetical assignments were made in different colors so that the groupings would stand out and be emphasized visibly. This graphic clarified certain concepts embodied in the proposal and led to further questions. For example, should area assignments be based on geographic area only, or on trying to balance the membership numerically, or some combination of the two? Also, what would be the effect on the budget of a current chapter if several members were assigned to a different chapter? In addition, it was noted that the Society's by-laws would probably have to be revised to include guidance on how to handle Society and chapter funds, and what actions would be necessary if a chapter became inactive and dissolved over time.

The Board decided that a copy of the map of hypothetical county assignments should be made and mailed to each chapter representative and president. Each local chapter then was to review the various issues that were of concern to them and bring a recommendation to the next [June 1993] Board meeting. At that meeting, the proposal to assign everyone to a local chapter was finally adopted, but objections to forcing a local chapter to collect dues remained so vehement that the proposal was later dropped.

Also at the December 1992 Board meeting, the research committee proposed, and the Board agreed, to establish a file to collect floristic information about various sites in Missouri. As proposed, the purposes of the file were to (1) collect existing floristic information at one secure and accessible location; (2) encourage individuals, groups and agencies to make available information that might not be generally known and/or eventually lost; and (3) encourage the generation of even more such information than was currently being produced.

The Missouri Botanical Garden Library agreed to house the file, which should insure the long-term accessibility and protection of the material. The MONPS archivist was the officer appointed to recover and deposit this information into the file. The Board made it clear, however, that the Society's archivist would act solely as the collector and storer of the information and

would not attempt to judge the ultimate value of the materials received. It was suggested also that the information be organized on a county basis and thereafter subdivided as the need seemed to warrant.

The type of information sought ranged from simple species lists that could be associated with some property in the state of Missouri, to more scientific lists vouchered by herbarium specimens. Additional information such as habitat, blooming period, and abundance was also recommended. As the article announcing the creation of this file stated, "Any type of floristic information that includes some type of quantifiable data is a pearl without price from our point of view." However, nearly any type of data was acceptable. As the article stated, "In short, any type of floristic information concerning any Missouri site which a future student might have a half way decent chance of relocating is wanted."

Beyond the obvious benefit of using this information to locate a particular species, the real purpose behind collecting this data was to document a point in time and aid future researchers. As the article about the file concluded: "Hopefully, the 'Flora File' housed at the Missouri Botanical Garden will have a practical usefulness whenever questions revolving around 'Where can I find species x' are raised. In the long run, however, it might turn out to be a gold mine for future scholars and activists. If they had started this file 200 years ago and kept at it, surely we would treasure it today."

In 1992, the Society decided, once again, to attempt a seed exchange. The approach tried this time was to tie the exchange to the annual and quarterly Board meetings. The exchange would be open to anyone attending the meetings. The rules, as amended in early 1993, for the exchange were simple:

1. Seeds may be collected from any Missouri native plant, but no collecting in the state parks or other public lands. Also avoid endangered species.
2. Seeds should be fairly clean of plant debris, dirt, or other foreign material.

3. Seeds should be packaged in coin envelopes available at most office supply stores. Label each packet with the name of the plant, date and county where collected, name and address of the collector (if the exchangers would like to correspond with questions, techniques, etc.).
4. To keep the exchange equitable, quantities of seeds in general should run **approximately** 25–30 seeds for most, to several for large seeds.
5. Exchanges will be packet for packet. Extra packets may be purchased for a nominal fee which will go to the Missouri Native Plant Society. Any extra packets will be stored properly and brought back to the next Board meeting.
6. Because this is an **informal** exchange, the seeds exchanged have no germination guarantee.

The 1993 *Missouriensis* was the first volume put out under new editors, George Yatskievych and Doug Ladd. In an introductory editorial, they enunciated distinctly their view of the purpose and future of the journal. As they stated, "*Missouriensis* is your journal. As members of the Missouri Native Plant Society, it should reflect the type of information you would consider most useful or would most like to read." They then presented clearly what they perceived to be one of the primary justifications for the journal:

> "Your journal represents an opportunity to publish information about our flora that would not be available elsewhere. The Missouri Native Plant Society provides a public and academic service to readers both in the state and outside our borders by facilitating dissemination of information directly relevant to Missouri, even if this information would be considered too site specific or regional for publication in works with a broader focus. As contrasted with the solely scientific focus of most academic journals, or the primarily popular focus of most gardening publications, *Missouriensis* offers an opportunity to provide the reader

with a broad spectrum of materials relating to Missouri's plant life."

They concluded their editorial with a plea for support: "If *Missouriensis* is to continue to reflect the growth and changes within our Society, we need your help. We would like to have far more material for publication... We are committed to maintaining a mixture of technical and popular levels in our journal, but can only do this with your support."

In February 1993, MONPS was one of 13 local conservation, environment, nursery, and landscape organizations involved in sponsoring a Naturescaping Symposium held at the Powder Valley Nature Center in St. Louis, with the Missouri Department of Conservation as the host. There were over 230 attendees at the day-long event. The organizers announced that the degree of public interest at the symposium meant there was a good possibility it might become an annual event, which, indeed, it did.

Also in 1993, the Society once again tried to influence state legislation. The Missouri Department of Conservation, particularly botanist Tim Smith, had been instrumental in getting Senator Mike Lybyer to introduce a bill that would make it a misdemeanor to dig or remove plants or plant parts from real property of the State Highway and Transportation Department without permission. In this effort, Smith had worked closely with Jack Harris, Chairman of the MONPS Environment and Education Committee. Later, Harris, representing MONPS, testified before the committee hearings in support of the bill.

The May–June 1993 *Petal Pusher* had a long article on the proposed legislation. According to the article, the purpose of this bill was to stop the practice of the commercial digging of wildflowers from Missouri's roadsides. The article contended that this practice had resulted in the annual harvest of thousands of native wildflowers from public property and sold for personal gain. The native stock of some of the state's wildflowers had been seriously depleted or even wiped out in some areas. The bill did contain provisions for legitimate scientific, educational, and weed control purposes. The article gave the full text of the pro-

posed bill and requested Society members to write or call their state senator and representative to support the bill, SB383 as amended. As the article pointed out, "Each year of delay means another year of theft and serious depletion of our wildflower heritage from public property."

Earlier, at the April 1993 Board meeting, the Board had authorized Harris, as Chairman of the Environment and Education Committee, to write a letter to the appropriate legislators, indicating the Society's support for this legislation. Eventually, this bill was combined with House Bill 536, relating to noxious weeds, and the combined legislation was signed into law on July 8, to go into effect August 28, 1993. This successful effort later gained international recognition by being mentioned in the "Green Alert" section of the Summer 1993 issue of *Wildflower*, a magazine published by the Canadian Wildflower Society but dedicated to covering all of North America's wild flora.

At that April meeting, Harris also reported that he had written to Tony Roberts, who was in charge of state proclamations, to arrange for a Missouri Native Plant Week in June 1994, in conjunction with the Society's 15th anniversary. The September–October 1993 *Petal Pusher* carried the announcement that Governor Mel Carnahan had signed a proclamation declaring that June 5–11, 1994, would be Missouri Native Plant Week in observation of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Missouri Native Plant Society. The selection of the time period was settled upon as an optimum and centralized period around which to schedule various celebrations, wildflower excursions, and other activities not only to celebrate the anniversary of MONPS, but also to educate the public about native plants. A copy of the actual proclamation was printed in that issue of *Petal Pusher*.

The next issue of *Petal Pusher* contained an announcement by Nels Holmberg, publicity chairman for MONPS, soliciting ideas for activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Society. The planning centered around two levels of possible activities: (1) those that were mainly appropriate for the state or Society level, and (2) those that could be planned and produced most successfully at the local chapter level.

At the December 1993 Board meeting, Wally Weber reported once again on the status of the *Missouri Flora Atlas*. The

nomenclature had been changed to coincide with the *Catalogue of the Flora of Missouri*, but indices for both Steyer-mark and the *Catalogue* were contained. Weber had some draft copies of the *Atlas* with him and handed out copies to those who agreed to proofread it. The Board approved publication of the *Atlas* so that it could be ready for the Missouri Native Plant Week in June 1994. Weber was also directed by the Board to investigate the cost of printing 200 copies and report back to the Board at the Spring meeting.

When the time arrived to celebrate the anniversary, a large variety of activities was offered throughout the state as part of the Native Plant Week; indeed, the "celebrating" and special events began in May and ran through the first week of July. The local chapters of MONPS held a host of special events, but the Missouri Botanical Garden and the U.S. Forest Service also scheduled a variety of programs and walks keyed to the event. Overall, the range of celebrations to honor the Society's anniversary were quite successful and did much to publicize MONPS and its activities. Unfortunately, the *Missouri Flora Atlas* was not published in time to be available for the activities.

During the December 1993 meeting, there also had been an extensive discussion about the Society's budget and funding concerns. After a thorough discussion, the consensus of the Board members was that the dues were meant to cover publications expenses, along with some operating costs. Other programs or activities would have to be covered by other fundraisers, such as book, plant, or tee-shirt sales.

In an attempt to answer a long-running question, the Board decided that for any fund-raising project that was designed, funded, and produced by the state Society, a retail price would be part of that plan. Furthermore, Board members agreed that for any such items sold by local chapters, the state Society would receive 60 percent of the profit from any such project, with the local chapter receiving the remaining 40 percent, if the item was sold at the planned retail price. If the local chapter charged more than the planned price, the extra profit would accrue to the chapter. Any fund-raising project designed, funded, and operated

strictly by a local chapter, remained entirely within the purview of that chapter.

The Board also decided that the Society should investigate the possibility of hiring a professional fund-raiser and membership solicitor. The conditions would include the requirement that the individual so hired would raise funds to cover all expenses of the contract in addition to those raised on behalf of the Society. Wally Weber, because of his experiences with similar undertakings for other organizations, volunteered to check into this idea for MONPS and report back to the Board.

Over the years, one of the most frequently asked questions of MONPS members had been: "What's a good source for native plants?" This became a particularly pertinent question when the naturescaping symposiums became so popular. In an attempt to provide a preliminary answer to that inquiry, MONPS published a "Regional Sources of Native Plants" list in the January–February 1994 *Petal Pusher*. At the same time, the Society also tried some subtle public education. In an introductory paragraph to the list, the Society stated its position clearly: "The Missouri Native Plant Society strongly urges all gardeners [to] insist that the plants they purchase are from nursery-propagated stock, not plants dug from the wild."

Because of the increasing interest in using native plants in landscaping, the business of growing and selling wildflowers had become an expanding industry. The Board of directors of MONPS believed that the Society needed to develop a standing policy on its relationships to nurseries, the public, and the mission of the Society. Accordingly, in September 1994, the Board created a "Nursery Guidelines Policy Committee" to examine these issues and report back to the Board.

This committee returned to the Board in December 1994 with its recommendations. After careful deliberation, the committee proposed two goals: (1) to follow the lead of other state native plant societies and send questionnaires to nurseries about their propagation policies and practices, and (2) to publish guidelines for consumers citing what questions should be asked of nurseries. After a long discussion, the Board concluded that MONPS should provide information and advisory literature to assist the Society's members in making wise selections and

purchases of native plants, but that the Society should not presume to question or approve the activities of enterprises in their business practices.

By the Autumn of 1994, it was also time for the Missouri legislature to begin considering whether or not to continue the state's sales tax for Missouri parks and soils. Jack Harris, Chairman of the Society's Environment and Education Committee, reported that MONPS had been invited to present testimony. The Board asked Harris to do so and, "...present a strong statement in support of continuing the sales taxes as they are..."

For years the various fund-raising activities of MONPS, both state wide and locally, had been managed on a strictly ad hoc basis. As the Society matured, the Board of directors believed that MONPS needed a more formalized policy, or at least a set of guidelines, governing such fund-raising activities. Accordingly, in December, 1994, Jack Harris presented a draft proposal entitled "MONPS Fund Raising Guidelines." This document was reviewed by the Board, then sent to the local chapters for further review and comment. Subsequently, as amended slightly, this draft proposal was adopted, in April 1995, as the official policy of the Society. The intent of the guidelines was to establish the basic criteria for determining the costs, and thus the selling price, of any item offered for sale by the Society. The full text of these guidelines was printed in the September–October 1995 issue of *Petal Pusher*.

In April 1995, the Board also enthusiastically approved the recommendation of the Membership Committee Chairman, Pat Grace, to recognize a new local chapter, the Osage Plains Chapter, from the Clinton area. This raised the total number of local chapters to eight, but by early 1995 the future viability of two or three of those chapters was questionable.

Board member George Yatskievych, at the Spring 1995 Board meeting, suggested the establishment of a fifth major MONPS award, this one to recognize a member's service to the Society itself. The Board endorsed this proposal and agreed to create the Missouri Native Plant Society Service Award. It was first awarded in 1997 to Pat and Jack Harris for, "...their

dedication and outstanding contributions to all aspects of the Missouri Native Plant Society."

At this Spring meeting, the Board also agreed to become a "Cooperating Member" of the newly created Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee, a network of federal agencies and other organizations interested in working to increase the appreciation of the value of native plants nationwide, and to facilitate the conservation of native plants and habitat.

At the June 1995 Board meeting, Wally Weber presented another update on the *Missouri Flora Atlas*. The extended and vigorous discussion among the Board members that followed this presentation reflected their strong interest in the Society's resolving its commitment to this project and moving the *Atlas* to conclusion. There was, however, general agreement that the scope of detailed and specialized information required to reach a prudent and sound consensus was beyond what was immediately available to the Board. Consequently, the Board decided to appoint a special ad hoc committee of five members (Weber, Steve Timme, George Yatskievych, Jack Harris, and Karen Haller), which was charged with developing a comprehensive and complete proposal to be presented to the Board as soon as possible.

In late 1995, MONPS entered a new era: climbing aBoard the burgeoning "information superhighway." In a first for MONPS, on November 10, 1995, the Society's treasurer received an inquiry, via electronic mail, about membership information. Previously there had been electronic communications traffic between the Society's immediate past president, Steve Timme, and the treasurer regarding a fund-raising project, but this November message was the first incoming message from the outside world. It should be noted also that it was Timme who recommended that the e-mail addresses of all concurring officers should be listed in the Society's newsletter, a practice which began with the November–December 1995 issue of *Petal Pusher*.

Continuing along this superhighway, in September 1996 the MONPS Board decided to have a Home Page on the Internet. Members were asked to bring ideas of what they would like on that Home Page to the December Board meeting. At that meeting, Board members were able to view some preliminary

results. Pat and Jack Harris, who had volunteered to host the Society's Home Page temporarily on their home computer Internet Web site, showed what had been accomplished so far. Brad Harris, their son, had spent time in November setting up the MONPS Home Page. After viewing the draft pages, Board members made some comments and suggestions for refinements and other pages to be added. The Board also voted to pay Brad for the design and production of this project to date.

On the political front, in 1995 and 1996 the Missouri Native Plant Society was heavily involved in the Missouri initiative petition campaign for state parks and soil and water conservation. In 1995, a Citizens Committee for Soil and Water Conservation and State Parks, a consortium of organizations and individuals concerned about the maintenance and viability of Missouri's state parks, historic sites, and the soil erosion/water quality conditions of the state's farm lands, had been formed in reaction to the lack of progress on this issue in the Missouri General Assembly. This consortium started an initiative petition campaign to place before the Missouri voters, for their approval or rejection, a constitutional amendment that would continue the one-tenth of one percent sales tax, similar to the existing one, for ten more years. The revenue from that tax had been divided evenly between state parks and historic sites and remedial programs that reduced soil erosion and improved related water quality. The coalition was prompted to take the initiative action route because the state legislature had failed to adopt enabling legislation to continue the tax. Even after the Missouri House passed a satisfactory bill, the bill died in the Missouri Senate on the last day of the legislative session because of the active opposition of one state senator. In order to meet the requirements for placing a constitutional amendment proposal on the ballot in 1996, over 170,000 signatures had to be collected from across the state.

At the December 1995 Board meeting, the Society's Environment and Education Committee Chairman, Jack Harris, requested that MONPS donate $350 (roughly the equivalent of $1/member) to this Citizens Committee to help finance the campaign to renew the sales tax funding for state parks. After a

lengthy discussion of the whole issue, the Board members voted to appropriate the funds requested.

In 1996, the Missouri Native Plant Society got involved in this petition campaign even more directly. The January–February 1996 *Petal Pusher* carried a long article by Harris on the initiative campaign. He explained the origin and necessity of the campaign and encouraged Society members to get involved. That issue of the newsletter also included a flyer giving the guidelines for the petition campaign and one of the actual petition forms. Harris asked MONPS members to collect as many signatures as possible on that form, get them notarized, then mail in the petition to aid the efforts of the coalition.

By dint of strenuous efforts on the part of many people, the initiative petition campaign was able to collect the signatures of well over 270,000 people by the July 1996 deadline. Having gotten the issue on the ballot, the problem now was getting voter approval. At the September 1996 MONPS Board meeting, the Board agreed to contribute $300 to the Parks and Soils coalition to help pay for publicity in support of a "yes" vote in November.

In November, Missouri voters, by almost a 2–1 margin, voted to continue the state sales tax funding for parks and soils for another ten years. At the December 1996 Board meeting, Jack Harris thanked everyone for the time and energy they had put into this campaign.

The issue about recommending sources for native plants continued to resurface. For several years, the Missouri Department of Conservation had maintained and distributed a "Regional Sources of Native Plants List," but in the mid-90s that agency decided it could no longer continue to do so. Tim Smith, the MDC employee responsible for that list, was also a member of the MONPS Board of directors. In 1996, he proposed that the Society assume the responsibility for that list. After an extensive discussion, the Board agreed to this recommendation. In September, President Larry Morrison appointed a three-person committee (Sue Hollis, Nels Holmberg, Dan Rice) to investigate the issues and report back to the Board suggesting what the Society's policy should be regarding this list and some of the problems associated with it.

When the issue was brought back before the Board in December 1996, the Board members decided, after lengthy discussion, that this source list should be "self-selecting," i.e., if a nursery claimed it carried native plants, then MONPS would accept that claim at face value. The Board decided that the Society had neither the time nor expertise to "police" such claims.

The committee also recommended the creation of a two-part brochure on native plants. The goal was to produce a list of sources for native plants and plant materials, which could be provided by MONPS to the general public. However, the committee believed strongly that the Society also should educate the public about some of the broader issues involved when using natives. Thus, the first part of the proposed flyer would provide information about the ethical practices regarding the propagation and sale of native plants, a discussion of why native plants were good choices, and other educational information. The second part of the brochure would contain the list of nurseries and seed sources. The Board accepted this approach and asked the committee to prepare a draft copy of the flyer for further consideration.

Institutionally, an issue that had troubled MONPS almost throughout its history was the question of when to drop a delinquent member from the Society's roll. Through the years, numerous approaches had been tried, with varying degrees of success. Finally, in April 1996, the state Board decided to institute a more formal approach and adopted the following rule: "A delinquent member will be dropped if payment [of dues] has not been received by April 30, with a final postcard after that date reminding them they have not paid."

Another recurring topic that had created problems for the Society was how to respond to the wide range of issues that came before it each year, particularly, those that needed to be resolved between state Board meetings. In an attempt to come to terms with these problems, in April 1996, the Board approved the following guidelines: (1) MONPS should be active on matters and issues related strictly to botany, (2) Policy or position statements that could not be reviewed by the entire Board of directors at a

regularly scheduled meeting, because of comment due date requirements, should be agreed upon by at least two members of the Board in addition to the MONPS member proposing the statement, and (3) Issues and subject areas beyond those noted above should be brought to the attention of the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting whenever possible.

Also in April 1996, the Board voted to get involved with another political issue, this one with national implications. Board member Tim Smith described a proposal then circulating to charge a modest tax for certain outdoor equipment, such as binoculars, field guides, cameras, and film. The revenue thus generated would go into a nongame/wildlife diversity fund that would be dispersed to the states by various kinds of matching grants. The Board directed President Larry Morrison to write a letter to the national coordinator of this initiative voicing the Society's support of this project, known as "Teaming with Wildlife." In addition, the Board also agreed that MONPS would become a member of the coalition pushing the proposal's adoption.

From May 31 to June 2, 1996, the Missouri Native Plant Society held a joint meeting with the Illinois Native Plant Society in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, area. On Friday evening, a large number of people from the two groups heard John Schwegman, state botanist of Illinois, present a program about unique plant species and natural communities found in southwestern Illinois. That presentation whetted everyone's appetite for the field trips arranged for Saturday on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. The flooding Big River modified one trip and heavy rain cut short another on Saturday, but even so all the field trips were well attended and enjoyed. A joint banquet Saturday night at the Port-Cape Girardeau Restaurant, overlooking the wide and slightly swollen Mississippi River, gave participants a chance to socialize and discuss mutual interests, concerns, ideas, and problems. Sunday morning field trips were conducted on the Missouri side of the Mississippi. All participants agreed that the joint meeting had been both educational and enjoyable, and they looked forward to having a similar joint meeting in a few years.

At the MONPS-only portion of that June meeting, it was announced that after purging the roll of all delinquent members, the Society's current membership stood at 335. Treasurer Jack

Harris reported a financial balance of slightly over $11,000. The Board discussed the need to consider options and plans for the effective investment of the funds in the Society's savings account. Available resources would permit prudent action in areas such as a major education or fund raising project, or per-haps supporting a deserving botany student through a scholarship grant. Harris requested that MONPS members discuss these matters with their chapter and Society representatives and make suggestions for the Board's consideration.

Membership Chairman Pat Grace announced that the first "Wear the Coneflower" Badge Program submission had been received in May 1996. The committee determined that the submission by Pamela Olsen had been done very well and the badge was sent to her. Even with this submission, however, the general feeling of Board members was that the badge requirements might be too demanding, so asked the Badge Committee to examine that question and make a recommendation to the Board.

Because many members of the current state Board did not know the long and involved history of the *Missouri Flora Atlas* project, at the September 1996 Board meeting, President Larry Morrison asked Wally Weber to discuss the history of the project, and to explain how it had evolved over the years. In concluding his lengthy presentation, Weber announced that the *Atlas* was almost ready for publication and that Southwest Missouri State University was willing to undertake that aspect of the project, including the shipping and handling, at no cost to MONPS, but also, with no financial gain for the Society. After an extensive discussion, the Board members accepted those conditions. In addition, the Board agreed that prior to the actual publication of the *Atlas*, an advertisement for it would appear in *Petal Pusher* announcing the cost and availability of the volume. After those orders had been received, MONPS would take the responsibility of paying for the printing of an additional 25 copies to be held for later orders.

Despite the esteem in which *Missouriensis* was held, even beyond the confines of the state of Missouri, the journal continued to have difficulty attracting publishable material. Volume 17 for 1996 had to be reduced to a single issue because of the

paucity of material, and even then was not published until early 1997. In a lead-off editorial in that issue, co-editors George Yatskievych and Doug Ladd outlined clearly the problem and the alternatives. Pulling no punches, the editors started by asking bluntly, "Has *Missouriensis* outlived its usefulness?" They admitted, "It is a tough question and one that the Board of the Missouri Native Plant Society will be wrestling with in the coming weeks."

The editorial continued by presenting a brief history of the evolution of *Missouriensis,* then frankly laid out the problem of the "ill health of the journal." The editors pointed out that the current issue was late, represented the "entire backlog of submissions," and was still "the shortest issue of the journal published to date." Essentially, its publication was possible only because the editors of the journal had spent, "...a lot of time begging for contributors to fill pages." Even more disturbing to the editors was the fact that conditions were not improving. By the end of the first quarter of 1997, there had not been a single new submission to *Missouriensis*.

Given such conditions, the editors wrote, "the Society needs to decide whether it will continue to support publication of a journal and, if so, what kind of material and how much will fill its pages." They declared that, "There may not be another home for the kind of papers and reports that have been published in *Missouriensis* during the past several years. There may be a need to move the journal in a different direction... Or, it may have outlived its usefulness."

The editorial concluded by asking the Society's members to make their views on the future of the journal known, and if members believed that the Society needed to continue producing a journal, then they needed to decide what should go into it and whether they could help fill its pages. In the absence of such input and support, Yatskievych and Ladd called attention to the obvious: "*Missouriensis* will end its evolution with extinction."

By the time of the April 1997 Board meeting, President Morrison had received several responses to this editorial. All the responses were positive about continuing the journal, even if it had to be on a reduced publishing schedule. After an extended discussion, the Board agreed with this assessment and authorized

the editor to produce only one issue annually of *Missouriensis*, starting in 1997. George Yatskievych, the co-editor, pointed out that individuals received other benefits beyond the journal for their dues, but for institutional members *Missouriensis* and *Petal Pusher* were really the only benefits of membership they received. Because of the reduced publishing schedule for *Missouriensis* for the foreseeable future, the Board decided to make membership in MONPS free to academic institutions from 1998 forward.

Later, Yatskievych used the July–August 1997 *Petal Pusher* to announce to the membership the decision of the MONPS state Board to change the publication schedule of *Missouriensis* from twice a year to just once a year. He pointed out that this change was necessary because of the lack of articles submitted. He also used this opportunity to encourage, once again, members, "...to submit short or long articles to *Missouriensis* on any topic relating to the goals of the Missouri Native Plant Society." He emphasized that, "Publication of a journal is one of the most important services that MONPS provides to the botanical world." He concluded with a plea: "If receiving a journal is important to you, please help!"

On a more positive note, at the April 1997 Board meeting, Yatskievych was able to report that Iowa State University Press had given its permission to use data from the old Missouri county dot distribution maps from Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* in the *Missouri Flora Atlas*.

At that same April meeting, Board members expressed their continuing disappointment over the lack of response to the Society's badge program. Nevertheless, they determined to keep the requirements the same, but "advertise" the program in an attempt to generate some interest. Accordingly, the Board directed the publicity chairman to send out some press releases about the badge program. It was also suggested that chapters work on badges during their field trips. As one Board member remarked, "If we, as members, will not do the requirements, how can we expect others to put out the effort?"

During this Spring meeting, the updated, more comprehensive version of the Regional Sources of Native Plants infor-

mation sheet made its debut. After an extensive discussion, the Board resolved to use the current format immediately where needed; in the meantime, Board Member Robin Kennedy volunteered to take the committee's information, put it on her computer, and rearrange the information to fit into a tri-fold format.

At the June 1997 Board meeting, Robin Kennedy showed the Board samples of what had been done with this information. She and fellow Board member Pamela Haverland had turned the data into a series of tri-folded brochures, each dealing with a specific topic, such as: why use native plants; responsible buying; and sources for herbaceous plants, grasses, trees and shrubs. The intent was for Kennedy to maintain the "template" for these brochures on her computer, update the information as necessary, and provide every local chapter a copy of each brochure which the chapter could then reproduce as needed.

Board members were unanimous in their praise of the effort and finished products. They decided to keep open a "commentary period" until mid-July for any comments, corrections, or additions Board members might recommend. At that point, the particular format and content of this set of brochures would be "fixed" and distribution made to the local chapters, which was done in late July.

As finally published, these brochures were called "Fact Sheets," the idea being that there would be a continuing series of publications done by MONPS dealing with various topics relating to native plants. There were five Fact Sheets in this initial group:

#1 basic information about native plants,
#2 responsible buying,
#3 herbaceous plant sources,
#4 grass sources,
#5 tree/shrub sources.

Later in the year, three additional fact sheets were produced:

#6 native plant suppliers,
#7 butterfly gardening using native plants,
#8 landscaping with native shrubs and small trees.

Also at this meeting, after reviewing representative samples, the Board authorized Jack Harris to order lapel pins with the Society's logo on them. These would be used for various promotional and incentive programs. After long and involved discussions with various suppliers, the pins were ready for distribution in December 1997. The Board decided to provide a free pin to all life members of the Society, selling the rest to others who might want one.

The July–August 1997 issue of *Petal Pusher* contained an article by Jack Harris, co-chairman of the Society's Environment and Education Committee, on exotic plant species and the "strengthened management policy" recently adopted by the Missouri Conservation Commission in an attempt to control the "growing threat to our natural ecosystems posed by immigrant harmful exotic species..." The article included the Commission's policy statement regarding the use of exotic plant species and also provided a chart showing 31 "problem" exotic plant species in Missouri. Harris concluded by stating: "We urge all MONPS members to support the goal of eliminating, controlling, or suppressing problem exotic plant species."

Since June 1980, the Society had been working on a *Missouri Flora Atlas*. For various reasons, there had been innumerable delays in its publication. The whole future of the *Atlas* was further complicated in July 1997 with the unexpected death of Wallace R. Weber, who had been the project's coordinator. In September, however, Mike Skinner and Paul Redfearn sent word to the MONPS Board that they were interested in continuing work on the *Atlas*. The Board members went on record as wanting to bring the project to fruition, and expressed their willingness to consider any proposal that would do that and produce a useful volume.

In the late Summer of 1997, Southwest Missouri State University announced the establishment of a scholarship fund in Wallace Weber's honor to help support botany graduate students. In September, the MONPS Board of directors voted to make a donation to that fund, as a recognition of Wally's long years of dedicated service to MONPS.

At the September 1997 meeting, Jack Harris reported that the XVI International Botanical Congress would be held in St. Louis in August 1999. The planners of that congress asked if MONPS would be interested in participating. The Board responded positively, offering to lead field trips, present slide shows, or do whatever else was suitable.

Later, the Society was invited to have an exhibit booth at the congress. After some negotiating among the parties involved, MONPS agreed to share this booth with the Missouri Prairie Foundation and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The three organizations would share the costs and staffing of the booth for the five days of the conference, but each would be able to offer items for sale and have information available all five days. Board members readily agreed to this arrangement.

Also at the September meeting, the Board received a communication from a member of the Ozark Showy local chapter asking to dissolve that chapter officially. Individual members were still interested in the Society and would continue to support it and its goals, but unfortunately there were no longer sufficient numbers to maintain a local chapter. At the December 1997 Board meeting, the Board accepted this decision with regret and the hope of reauthorizing the chapter at a later date. The Board also decided to dissolve the Kirksville chapter. In both areas, there had been no local chapter activities for several years.

At the same time, and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Society's by-laws, President Morrison appointed Frank Reynolds, a member-at-large from Springfield who had come to the December Board meeting out of his own interest, to perform a status review of the viability of the Springfield local chapter and report his findings to the Board of directors in April 1998.

There was increasing anxiety among the Board members over not only maintaining a viable Society membership, but also in expanding the number of members. As part of this concern, there was an extensive discussion in December 1997 over how to provide financial and moral support for new and/or moribund chapters. At the end of that discussion, Board members agreed to support the establishment of new chapters by providing seed

money, not to exceed $30, to qualified persons who applied to the Board about starting a new chapter.

On the positive side, by the end of 1997, the Society's financial base was strong enough that not all of its funds were needed for day-to-day operations. Accordingly, the Board directed the treasurer to invest $4,000 in a 12-month certificate of deposit, in an attempt to manage the Society's funds for a greater rate of return.

Early in 1998, the World Conservation Union asked if the Missouri Native Plant Society would be interested in becoming a representative on the North American Plant Specialist Group. The Board believed this request was both an honor and an opportunity, and readily accepted. Morrison appointed George Yatskievych, as the Society's representative.

At the April 1998 Board meeting, Mike Currier, Research Steward for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Parks Division, approached the MONPS Board and asked Society members to assist in plant survey and monitoring in Missouri's state parks. As part of a management development plan, every Missouri state park needed to have an "attribute survey" completed by the year 2000. Currier pointed out that presently there were records of 167 rare/endangered plants in 48 state parks, but many of those records were more than 10 years old, or were unconfirmed. He requested MONPS members' assistance in performing an updated inventory of state-listed plant species that might occur in Missouri's state parks. He was particularly interested in anyone, singly or with a group, who would be able to visit certain parks/historic sites to confirm existing records, or contribute to the data base by discovering new occurrences.

More formally, the objective would be to assist the Parks Division staff, independently or in concert, to (1) Engage in quantitative natural resource inventories to document the occurrence of plant species of special concern, and (2) Update all records older than ten years and confirm the status of undated records by the year 2000. All of this information, and a plea for help, was placed in the July–August 1998 *Petal Pusher*.

At that same Board meeting, the Society received requests from two individuals wanting to use the Missouri Native Plant

Society as an "umbrella" organization under which they could apply, individually, for grants. There was a long and extensive discussion on this issue, particularly the question of what the Society's general policy should be regarding such requests. Among the many concerns raised were what responsibilities and liabilities would the association, and its officers, have to assume for managing large sums of grant money, and a reluctance for the Society to become involved in projects that originated outside the organization and over which they had little control. The Board members finally decided that both requests represented worthwhile projects, but declined to participate in either because they believed that MONPS had neither the technical nor administrative resources to oversee such projects.

It was announced during this April Board meeting that the MONPS home page had been transferred successfully to the University of Missouri's web site. Board members requested that this home page address be printed in each issue of *Petal Pusher*, which was done starting with the July–August 1998 edition (Vol. 13, No. 4).

Also at this meeting, Treasurer Jack Harris raised the question whether the Society's fiscal year should be changed to coincide with the installation of new officers (i.e., fiscal year to run July 1–June 30). No by-laws changes would be required because the fiscal year was not specified in the by-laws. In the July–August 1998 *Petal Pusher*, Harris wrote an article outlining the pros and cons of this proposal and asked that the issue be discussed by members at the local chapters, with comments and concerns brought back to the December Board meeting.

The Summer 1998 meeting, headquartered in Bethany, Missouri, was a joint meeting with the Iowa Native Plant Society. Activities followed the now familiar pattern of field trips in both states and the opportunity for members of both societies to discuss their mutual interests, concerns, programs, and future plans.

A unique feature of this joint meeting was the Friday evening program. Participants met at the Wayne Helton Prairie Natural Area in Harrison County, Missouri, late in the afternoon and scoured the prairie to see what was in bloom, looking specifically for the Federally Threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*), over four dozen of which were

found. At dusk, everyone moved onto the bordering county road for the program. David Ashley, from the Biology Department of Missouri Western State College, presented a fascinating look at prairie pollinators. He even brought his own portable generator to run a slide projector. There was one short pause in the show when everyone had to move their chairs, the screen, and slide projector from the roadway so a very surprised local resident could get through. After the truck passed, everyone returned to the roadway and the program continued without further interruption. Afterward, participants reentered the nearby prairie to see what types of insects had been drawn to the lighted screens and traps Ashley had set up previously. Everyone enjoyed examining the wide variety of insect life which had been attracted. One individual got so carried away with the enthusiasm of the moment that he tested the supposed edibility of mayflies, pro-nouncing that the one he ate was rather "nut-like" in flavor.

At the Autumn 1998 Board meeting, held in Science Hall at Truman University, Board member Tim Smith reviewed the status of the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) initiative, which the Society had endorsed in April 1996. Under this proposal, a small tax would be placed on purchases of outdoor related equipment to provide a stable funding for recreation, conservation, and education about non-game components of our natural heritage resources. This initiative, never received enough backing in Congress to be enacted. Smith announced that support for the old TWW proposal was now coalescing behind The Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1998. Under this proposed legislation, funding would come from receipts derived from the outer continental shelf oil and gas leases. Proponents of this bill hoped to attain the same goal of funding for non-game wildlife programs while avoiding the difficulties of prescribing a new tax. The MONPS Board voted to support this national legislation, encouraged individual Society members to write their congressmen asking them to help sponsor the legislation, and directed President Morrison to write both Missouri senators and all Missouri representatives voicing support for this initiative on behalf of MONPS.

At this Board meeting, Morrison also announced that in August 1998, he had received a message from J. Dan Pittillo, editor of *Chinquapin*, the newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. *Chinquapin* was going to do a series featuring other botanical organizations, and Pittillo asked if the Missouri Native Plant Society would like to be one of the organizations highlighted in the "Botanical Organization Spotlight." The MONPS Board unanimously agreed that the Society should accept the invitation. Morrison volunteered to draft the article, then have some Board members review it before sending it to *Chinquapin*. The finalized version was submitted to Pittillo in November, and appeared in the Winter 1998 (Vol. 6, No. 4) *Chinquapin*. Providing some well-deserved recognition for those responsible, Pittillo had remarked, in that initial message, that "I think your 'Petal Pusher' is one of the best newsletters of botanical organizations which I receive."

Although there had never been any real problems, there was growing concern over the fact that the Society's fiscal year and elections were not "in sync" which meant there was a six month "gap" between the new officers assuming their positions and the beginning of the next fiscal year. To correct this situation, at the December 1998 meeting, the MONPS Board decided to change the organization's fiscal year from January 1–December 31 to July 1–June 30 so that the fiscal year now would correspond with the Society's elections. At the same time, to ease the transition to the new system, the Board agreed to give six months free membership to those people who were active at the time the change took place. In other words, they would be carried on the membership roll for 18 months. To allow the local chapters ample time to prepare for this change, the Board resolved that the change to the new fiscal year would not take effect until July 1, 2000.

At that same December Board meeting, Morrison appointed a sub-committee of the Environment and Education Committee, to serve as a task force to follow the developments of the Mark Twain National Forest Plan. The Mark Twain National Forest, the largest unit of public land in Missouri, could provide many opportunities for native plant conservation. Morrison charged this task force with the responsibility of following the various

proposals to this Forest Plan as it developed, and then keeping MONPS informed of any provisions that might affect native plants. The members appointed to this sub-committee were Jim Bogler, Jack Harris, Donna Kennedy, Ralph Lindgren, and Ann Wakeman.

During this December meeting, George Yatskievych suggested that in addition to helping with the field trips, MONPS increase its participation in the International Botanical Congress meeting in St. Louis in 1999 and generate some favorable publicity for the Society by "sponsoring" an award for native plant artwork at an international art exhibit being held in conjunction with the Congress. After a lengthy discussion, the Board authorized Yatskievych to arrange with IBC planners for MONPS to award a $250 prize for the best botanical artwork whose subject was native to the midwestern United States, preferably to Missouri.

At that same December meeting, Tim Smith announced the formation of a new coalition of conservation organizations, the Grassland Coalition. As the name indicated, this was a collection of groups interested in prairies and their conservation and restoration. Smith recommended that MONPS become a member of the coalition. There would be no cost to the Society, and MONPS's joining would lend moral support to the coalition's efforts and possibly aid it in getting some government funding. Given these considerations, Board members were unanimous in their decision to have MONPS join the Grassland Coalition. In mid-December, Morrison sent a letter to the coalition expressing the Society's desire to join with them. A warm letter of welcome was received early the next year.

In early 1999, Pat Harris, editor of *Petal Pusher*, received a request from a commercial nursery wanting to print an announcement about a workshop it was going to have and for which an attendance fee would be charged. The editor wanted it clarified as to whether or not it was proper to publish notices of this nature in the newsletter. At the April 1999 Board meeting, after discussing the various issues involved and their ramifications, the Board members decided to give the editor the authority to make such decisions based on whether or not the

message would be in the nature of a "public service announcement" that would be of interest to the Society's members. At the same time, the Board voted to formalize what had been an undeclared policy and decreed that *Petal Pusher* would not accept paid ads.

At the Spring 1999 meeting, Robin Kennedy announced that a new page had been added to the MONPS web site—one consisting of pictures of native Missouri plants. She asked that members send slides or photos to her to post on this page.

At this meeting, it was also announced that in February 1999 the first volume of the revised edition of *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*, by George Yatskievych, had been published jointly by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Botanical Garden. This brought to fruition a project that MONPS had discussed and supported since 1980, when Wally Weber first suggested an updated manual, and with which numerous members had actively helped over the years.

The twentieth anniversary meeting of the Missouri Native Plant Society was held the second weekend of June 1999 in the Houston, Missouri, area. Prior to Saturday's field trips to the Sunklands Natural Area and an evening open house and tour of the Hamilton Seed Company, there was a slide show on Friday evening. This show was comprised of slides from some of the Society's excursions over the past 20 years, accompanied by reminiscences of those present. It was a good way to add a certain perspective, and personal touch, to the heritage of MONPS during its early years.

At the annual meeting, Society treasurer Jack Harris reported that the Missouri Native Plant Society had 334 members, and was exchanging newsletters with 34 other organizations. Society assets totaled slightly over eleven thousand dollars.

The July–August 1999 (Vol. 87, No. 4) issue of the Missouri Botanical Garden's *Bulletin* carried an article about the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis. In that article, there was specific mention given to MONPS and its prize for the best art depicting a Midwestern native plant. Thus, beyond the recognition MONPS received by those viewing the art show at the Garden, the Society also garnered some additional favorable publicity, one of the major reasons behind offering the award.

The response to the call for submissions for the Art in Science exhibit, part of the International Botanical Congress, was almost overwhelming. A total of 240 entries was submitted, 72 of which were selected to be placed on public display at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Monsanto Hall. Of those 72 art works, 15 qualified for consideration for the MONPS Award. Because of the high degree of difficulty in making a choice among such outstanding works of botanical art, a category of "honorable mention" (without a cash prize) was added to the MONPS Award. This Honorable Mention prize was won by Mary C. Bauschelt of Cambria, Wisconsin, for her watercolor of bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). The winner of the MONPS Art Award, and the monetary prize that accompanied it, was Robin A. Jess of Edison, New Jersey, for her watercolor of a pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). A small black and white reproduction of each of these works appeared in the September–October 1999 (Vol. 14, No. 5) issue of *Petal Pusher*.

Although slightly premature, the Spring 1999 (Vol. 15, No. 2) issue of *Wildflower* magazine, published by the North American Native Plant Society (formerly the Canadian Wildflower Society), carried an interesting announcement. In a nicely "framed" notice, the magazine stated "Congratulations to the Missouri Native Plant Society on its twentieth anniversary and its superb newsletter *Petal Pusher*." This recognition was just one example of the reputation that the Missouri Native Plant Society and its publications had built up, not only within the state but outside it as well, over its first 20 years.

In those first 20 years the Missouri Native Plant Society has gone from just the germ of an idea, through the formation of one of the first state native plant societies in the Midwest, to a well-established group with a stable organization, frequent and timely state and local meetings, and nationally-recognized publications. It has become what the Society's first president, Jon L. Hawker, hoped it would: "..a vital cooperative union of all people interested in Missouri plants...." More importantly, during those 20 years, the association has taken several important steps towards meeting the goals of the Society as they were enunciated in 1979:

"The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Missouri is to promote the preservation, conservation, and study of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, the education of the public to the value of the native flora and its habitat, and the publication of related material."

The Missouri Native Plant Society has made significant progress in all these areas, and its members look forward with great anticipation to the steady growth and evolution of the Society, and its continued flowering.

APPENDIX I
MONPS LOCAL CHAPTERS

Chapter	Year Formed
Southern Illinois*	1982
St. Louis	1984
Hawthorn (Columbia)	1986
Jefferson City	1986
Kansas City	1986
Kirksville**	1986
Springfield***	1987
Ozark Showy (Mountain View)**	1991
Osage Plains (Clinton)	1995

* Evolved into the Illinois Native Plant Society, which became an independent organization.

** Officially dissolved in December 1997 because there were no longer sufficient active members to sustain a local chapter.

*** Officially dissolved in December 1999 because there were no longer sufficient active members to sustain a local chapter.

APPENDIX II
MONPS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

In 1986, the Missouri Native Plant Society began presenting four major awards, but not every award has been given every year. The Julian A. Steyermark Award is the Society's highest award, and is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to any or all aspects of Missouri botany.The Research Award, named in memory of Arthur Christ in 1991, is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution toward furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora.The Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award is conferred upon an individual who, through teaching, writing, or other form, has significantly conveyed to others an appreciation and knowledge of Missouri's native flora.The Plant Steward Award is for an individual or organization for preservation of important elements of Missouri's flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practice. In 1995, the Society's Board of Directors added a fifth award, this one a Service Award, to recognize a member's service to the Missouri Native Plant Society.

THE JULIAN A. STEYERMARK AWARD

Year	Recipient
1986	Art Christ
1987	John E. Wylie
1990	Norlan Henderson
1991	Paul Redfearn
1992	Clair L. Kucera
1993	Edgar Denison
1997	David Castaner
1999	George Yatskievych

THE ARTHUR CHRIST MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD

Year	Recipient
1986	Bill Summers
1987	Paul W. Nelson
1988	Joanna Turner
1989	Louis G. Brenner
1992	Tim Nigh
1995	Richard Guyette
1997	Timothy E. Smith
1998	Ken McCarty

THE ERNA R. EISENDRATH MEMORIAL EDUCATION AWARD

Year	Recipient
1986	Edgar Denison
1987	Virginia (Ginny) Klomps Wallace
1988	Alice Nightingale
1989	Linda S. Ellis
1991	Bruce Schuette
1992	Katherine Chambers
1993	James M. Sullivan
1994	Karen S. Haller
1995	Bill Davit
1996	Doug Ladd and Frank Oberle
1998	Don Kurz and Paul Nelson
1999	Mervin Wallace

THE PLANT STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Year	Recipient
1986	Fred Hussman
1987	Craig Mackoy
1988	Mrs. Frank Lowry
1989	Onie and Betty Conkin
1990	John Weston; Forest Hills Golf Course, St. Louis County
1991	Herb and Joan Domke
1992	Doug Ladd
1994	Larry Houf
1995	Sybill Amelon
1996	Penny Holtzmann
1998	James Trager
1999	Ann and Bob Merrill

THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SERVICE AWARD

Year	Recipient
1997	Pat and Jack Harris
1999	Jim Bogler

APPENDIX III
MONPS PRESIDENTS

President	Term
Jon L. Hawker	6/79–6/81
Paul L. Redfearn	6/81–6/83
Melvin Conrad	6/83–6/85
David Castaner	6/85–6/87
Doug Ladd	6/87–6/89
Bill Summers	6/89–6/91
Karen S. Haller	6/91–6/93
Stephen L. Timme	6/93–6/95
Larry R. Morrison	6/95–6/99
Jack H. Harris	6/99–Present

APPENDIX IV
MONPS QUARTERLY MEETING SITES

Year	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
1979	———	Fulton[1]	Montauk State Park	Babler State Park
1980	Point Lookout (School of the Ozarks)	Lake of the Ozarks State Park	Thousand Hills State Park	Kansas City
1981	Columbia[2]	Rolla	Joplin	Missouri Botanical Garden
1982	Cape Girardeau	Warrensburg	Big Lake State Park	Missouri Botanical Garden (in Feb 1983)[3]
1983	Alley Springs	No Meeting	Cuivre River State Park	Jefferson City (in Jan 1984)
1984	Cape Girardeau[4]	No Meeting	Columbia	Missouri Botanical Garden (in Jan 1985)
1985	Springfield	Alley Springs	Lake of the Ozarks State Park	Blue Springs
1986	Warrensburg[4]	Big Lake State Park	Ste. Genevieve	Jefferson City

1987	Holly Ridge State Forest	Cherokee Pass	Ted Shanks Wildlife Area	Jefferson City
1988	Roaring River State Park	Brookfield	West Plains	Columbia
1989	St. Louis	Fulton (10th Anniversary Celebration)	Springfield (Henning State Forest)	Columbia
1990	Ha Ha Tonka State Park	Stockton Lake State Park	Van Buren (Big Spring)	Rolla
1991	Rolla[5]	Caney Mountain	Dexter	Columbia[6]
1992	Steelville (Reis Biological Station)	Lake of the Ozarks State Park	Blue Springs[7]	Columbia
1993	Pickle Springs	Fulton (Prairie Garden Trust)	St. Louis[8]	Jefferson City
1994	Cassville (Roaring River State Park)	St. Joseph	Joplin	Rolla
1995	Van Buren	Chillicothe	Springfield	Jefferson City
1996	Salem (Montauk	Cape Girardeau[9]	Clinton	Columbia

	State Park)			
1997	Cuivre River State Park	Stockton Lake State Park	Poplar Bluff	Rolla
1998	Columbia	Bethany[10]	Kirksville	Jefferson City
1999	Cassville (Roaring River State Park)	Houston	Ironton	Columbia

Notes:
[1] MONPS was officially "born" on 2 June 1979.
[2] Joint meeting with the Ozark Wilderness Conference.
[3] Joint meeting with the Missouri Prairie Foundation.
[4] Joint meeting with the Missouri Academy of Science.
[5] Joint meeting with the Audubon Society
[6] On Feb 29, 1992, at the Powder Valley Nature Center, St. Louis, there was a special session of the Board to examine the Society's objectives, priorities, and short- and long-term goals.
[7] Joint meeting with the Kansas Wildflower Society.
[8] Joint meeting with the Eastern Native Plant Alliance.
[9] Joint meeting with the Illinois Native Plant Society.
[10] Joint meeting with the Iowa Native Plant Society.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

[illegible] is published once a year by the Missouri Native Plant Society. Publication in the journal is open to all. Manuscripts will be accepted on any topic relating to Missouri or regional botany, including, but not limited to, floristic and taxonomic studies, historical and biographical essays, [illegible]landscaping and other aspects of horticulture involving native species, invasive exotics and other weeds, ecological research, and reviews of books and papers of interest to Society members. Shorter announcements or timely items should be submitted to the Society's newsletter, *Petal Pusher*. Items deemed more appropriately published there will be forwarded to the editors of this newsletter.

Manuscripts will be reviewed for content and appropriateness by at least two reviewers (except book reviews). The co-editors and the editorial committee members will perform most reviews, but outside reviewers may be selected if the content of a paper requires specialized knowledge. Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate to either of the co-editors. Authors with access to IBM-compatible microcomputers are encouraged to send a copy of the manuscript on diskette with an indication of the word-processor used. Typed manuscripts should be double-spaced on 8½×11 inch paper with minimum one inch margins.

Manuscripts should follow the format of papers in recent issues of *Missouriensis*. All references in the "Literature Cited" section should be cited in the text, as should all figures and tables. Illustrations should be submitted as original art work, rather than photocopies. Photographs may be submitted as slides or prints. Good-quality photocopies of herbarium specimens may be accepted in some cases. Authors should underline scientific names. Common names should not be capitalized unless a proper noun is part of the name (e.g., Missouri evening primrose). Abbreviations of authorities for scientific names should follow *Authors of Plant Names* (Brummitt and Powell, 1992). Literature citations in the text should be (author, year) or author (year). References from books and periodicals should be cited in the following form:

Brummitt, R.K., and C.E. Powell, eds. Authors of Plant Names. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, ed. 2. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Palmer, E.J., and J.A. Steyermark. 1935. An annotated catalogue of the flowering plants of Missouri. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 22:375–758, 21 pl.

When in doubt, provide more bibliographic data, rather than less. Titles of periodicals should be abbreviated following *Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum* and its supplement. Authors should consult the co-editors if there are any questions concerning format prior to manuscript submission.